A CentaUr's Life
story & art
KEI MURAYAMA
3

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Vol. 3

story & art

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SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

A Centaur's Life

story and art by **KEI MURAYAMA**

VOLUME 3

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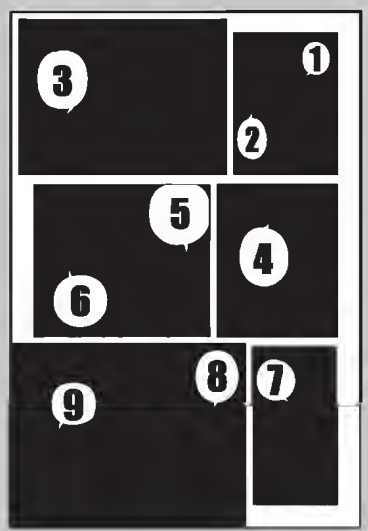
READING DIRECTIONS

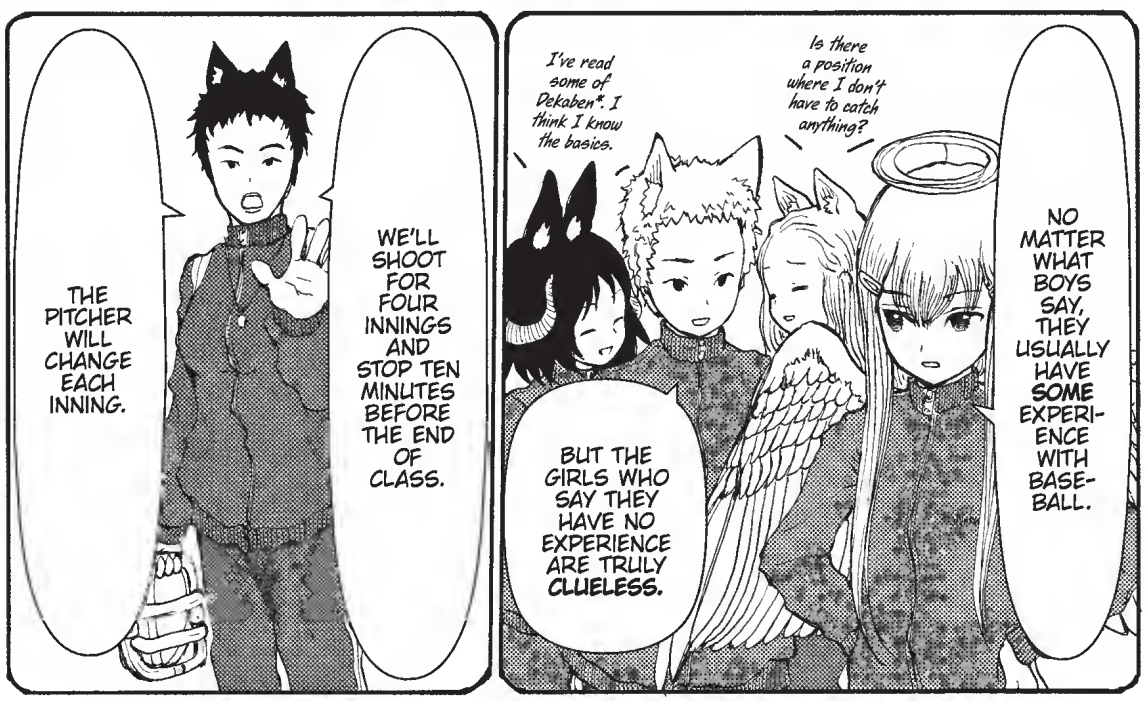
This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



CHAPTER 9

OKAY, OKAY!
I'M SORRY...
HIME-SAN! ARE YOU *TRYING* TO KILL ME?!
IS SHE REALLY GONNA TRY TO HIT THAT?
That really could've killed me...
Oopsies.
THROW AS HARD AS YOU WANT, HIME! OMAKI'S PRETTY GOOD AT DODGING.
NOT THAT GOOD!
ALL RIGHT, PLAY BALL!

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A SOFTBALL MATCH TODAY.
WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME, LISTEN FOR YOUR TEAM ASSIGN-MENT AND FORM UP.
TEAM A (BATTING FIRST)
What are you reading? Where did you even have that hidden?
We've been separated...
TEAM B (BATTING SECOND)
Hey, you're not supposed to be here!

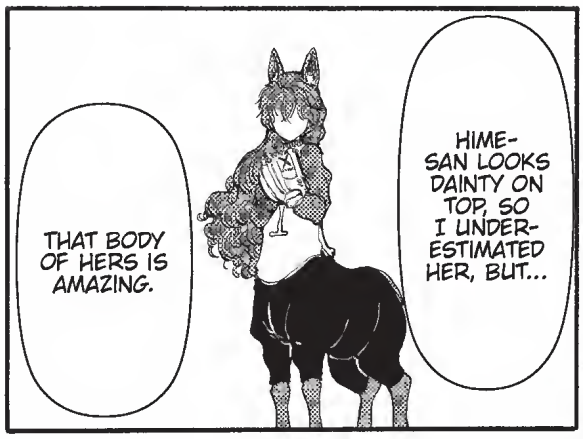

THE PITCHER WILL CHANGE EACH INNING.
WE'LL SHOOT FOR FOUR INNINGS AND STOP TEN MINUTES BEFORE THE END OF CLASS.
I've read some of Dekaben*. I think I know the basics.
Is there a position where I don't have to catch anything?
BUT THE GIRLS WHO SAY THEY HAVE NO EXPERIENCE ARE TRULY CLUELESS.
NO MATTER WHAT BOYS SAY, THEY USUALLY HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE WITH BASEBALL.

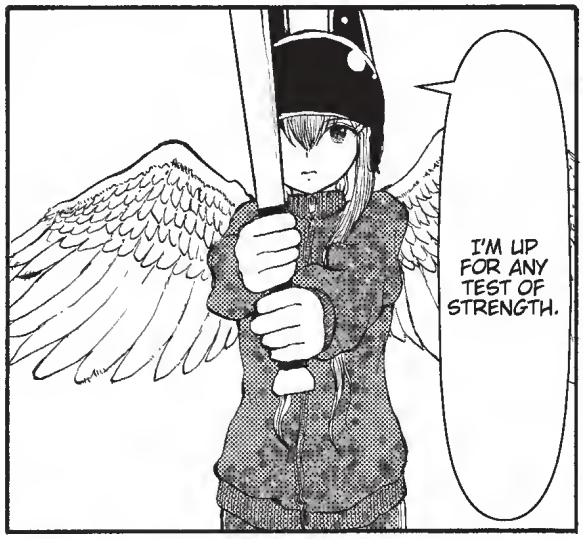
*A play on popular 70's baseball manga Dokaben.

THINK ABOUT IT.
SO...
WE'RE NOT REALLY SKILLED, SO THERE'S NO POINT IN THINKING ABOUT STRATEGY. LET'S JUST USE OUR BEST PLAYERS FIRST AND WORK OUR WAY DOWN.
THAT'LL GIVE THE TOP PLAYERS MORE CHANCES TO HIT.
WE'LL SORT OUR BEST, AVERAGE, AND WORST PLAYERS. THEN HAVE OUR WORST GO AGAINST THEIR BEST, OUR BEST WITH THEIR AVERAGE, AND OUR AVERAGE WITH THEIR WORST, AIMING FOR ONE LOSS AND TWO WINS.
THE BEST TACTIC WOULD BE **SUN BIN'S HORSE RACING STRATEGY.**
ARE YOU ALL PREPARED? **LET'S PLAY BALL!**
SO WE'LL LINE UP OUR BEST PITCHERS THE SAME WAY.
Softballs aren't really soft. They're scary.
I know! I know!
I'M SURE THAT THEY'LL USE THEIR BEST PLAYERS FIRST, TOO.

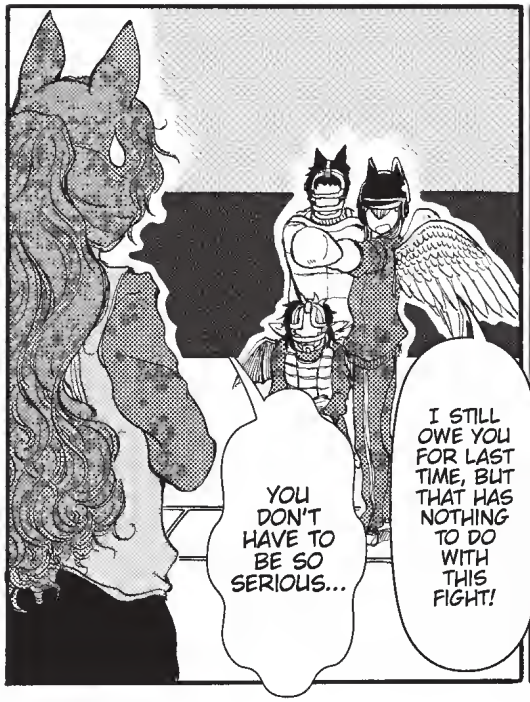
I'M NOT SURE I'LL BE ABLE TO HIT ANY-THING.
I'll be happy to make it home alive.
HMM... I DIDN'T THINK THAT HIME WOULD BE THE FIRST PITCHER.
I'LL SWING AWAY, BUT... I'LL BE LUCKY TO GET A PIECE OF IT.
BUT HER REACTION TIME IS VERY SLOW.
CLUNK
Wow! A three-pointer.
HIME HAS HER HORSE-POWER AND SHE'S GOOD AT SET PLAYS...
MAYBE I'LL TRY FOR A GROUND-ER.
WITH THAT BIG BODY OF HERS...
GUH!
THUD

IT'S MINE!
SO HARD!
Wah! Wah!
GOT IT!
UMPH!
SNATCH
Out!

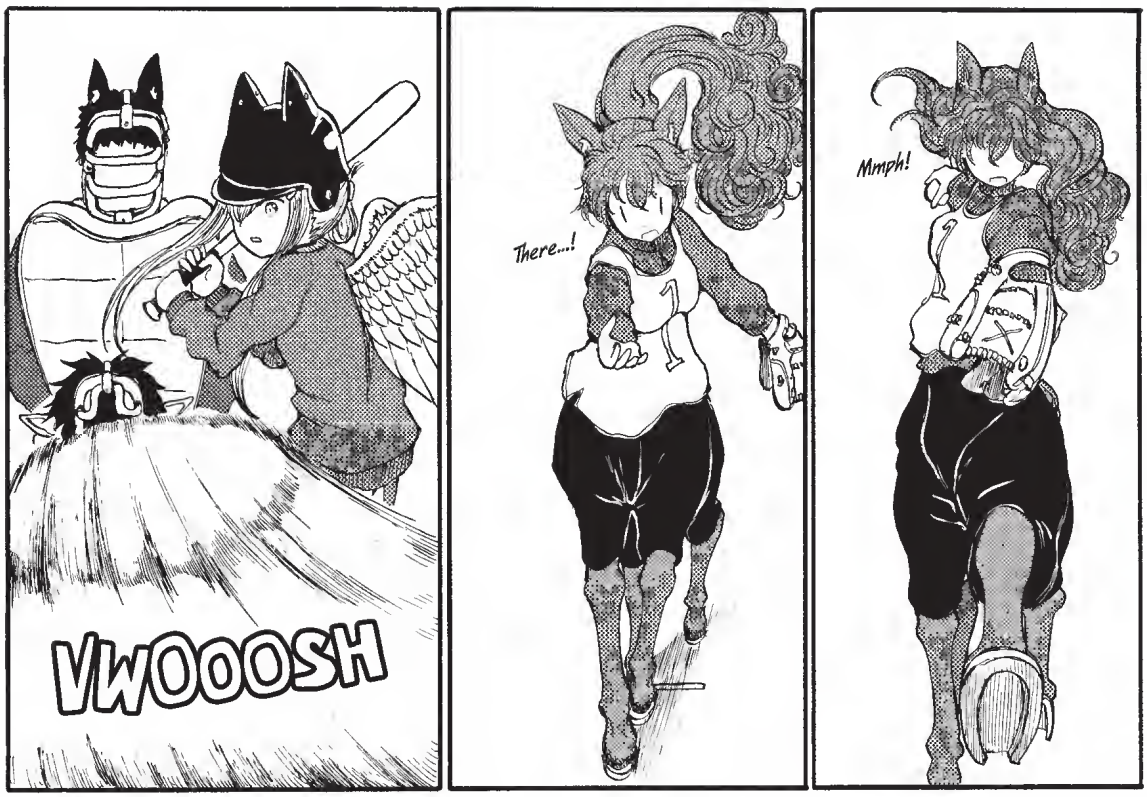

HIME-SAN LOOKS DAINTY ON TOP, SO I UNDER-ESTIMATED HER, BUT...
THAT BODY OF HERS IS AMAZING.

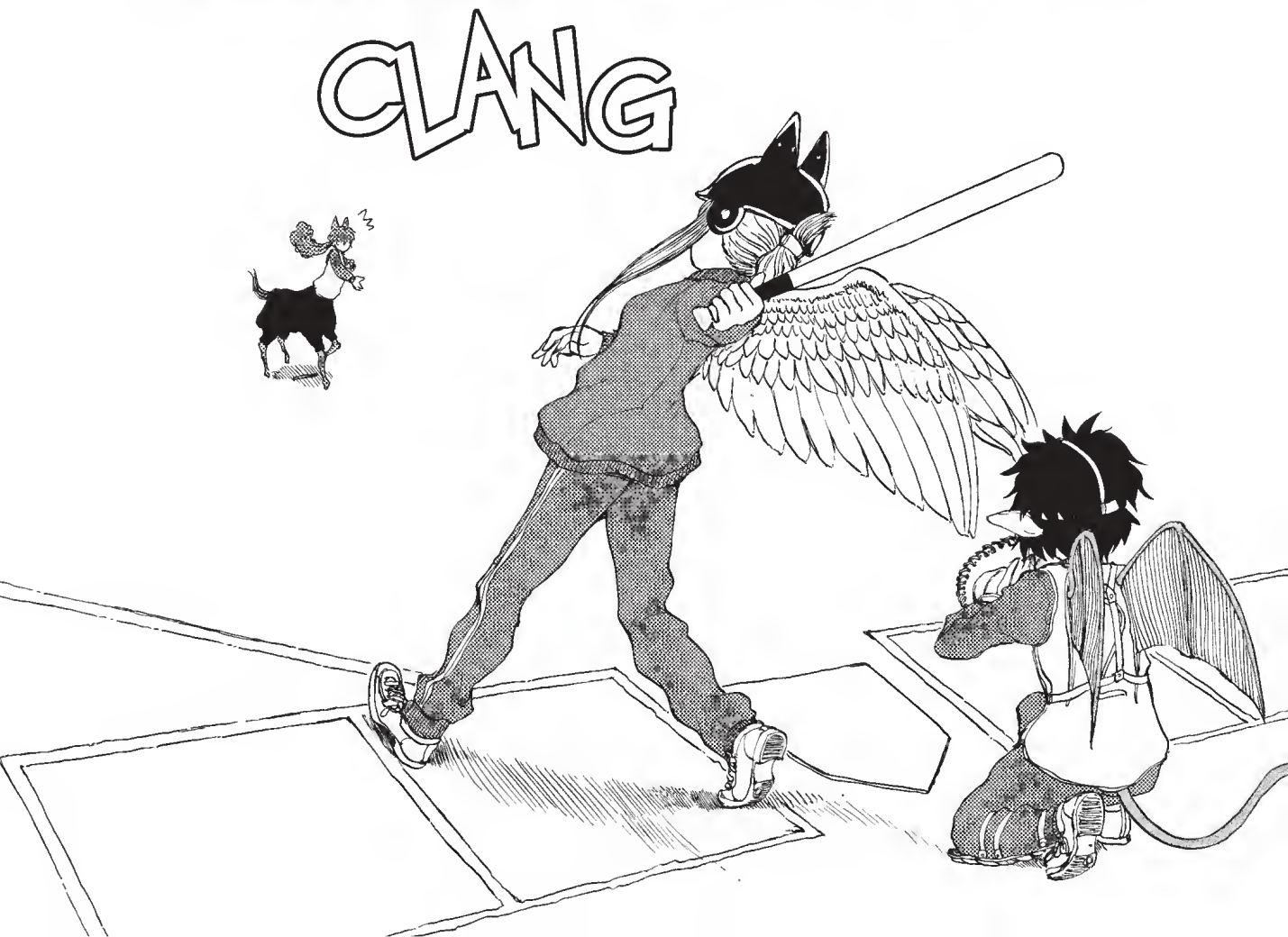

I'M UP FOR ANY TEST OF STRENGTH.

SORRY... SHE THREW WITH SUCH FORCE.

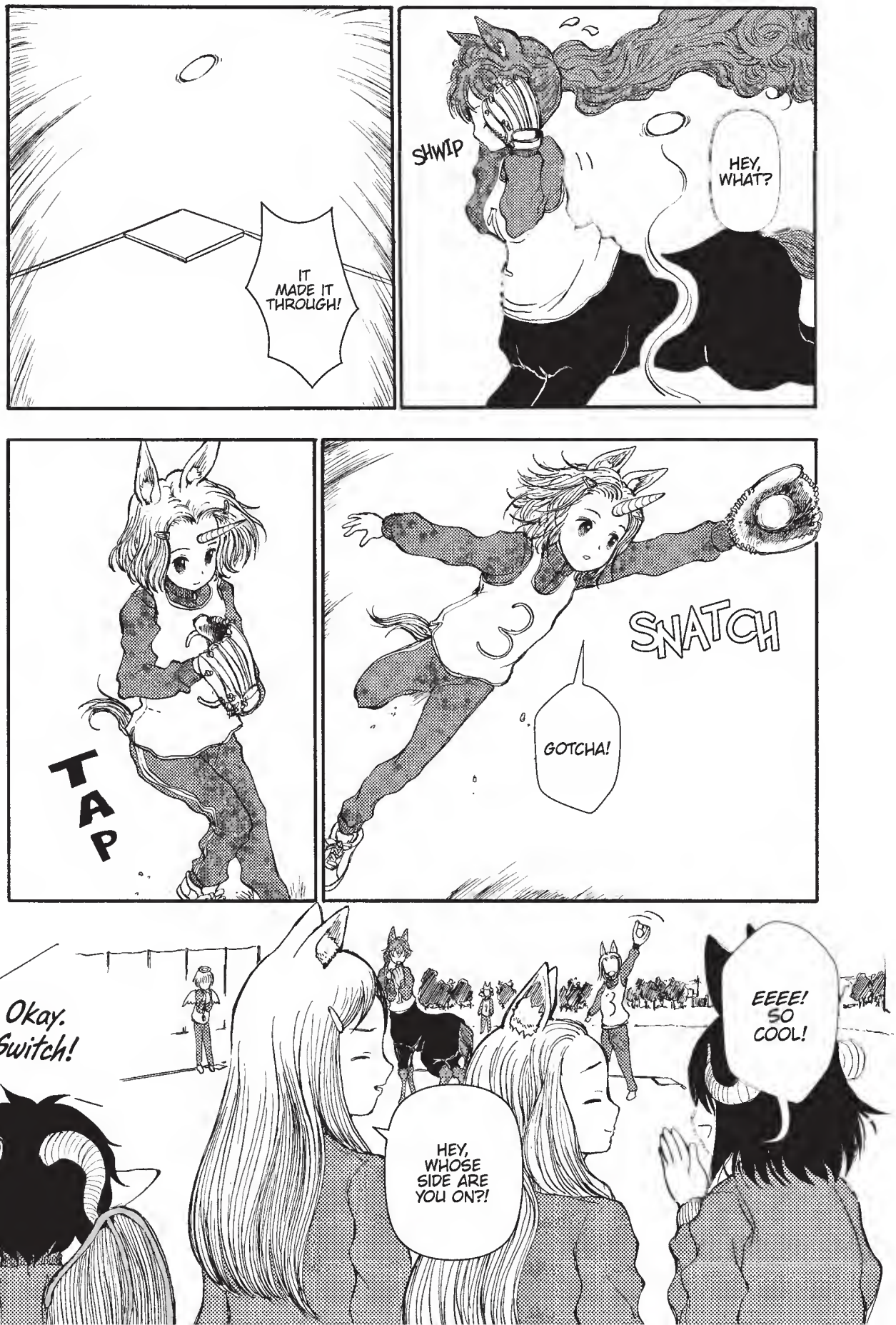

I STILL OWE YOU FOR LAST TIME, BUT THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS FIGHT!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO SERIOUS...

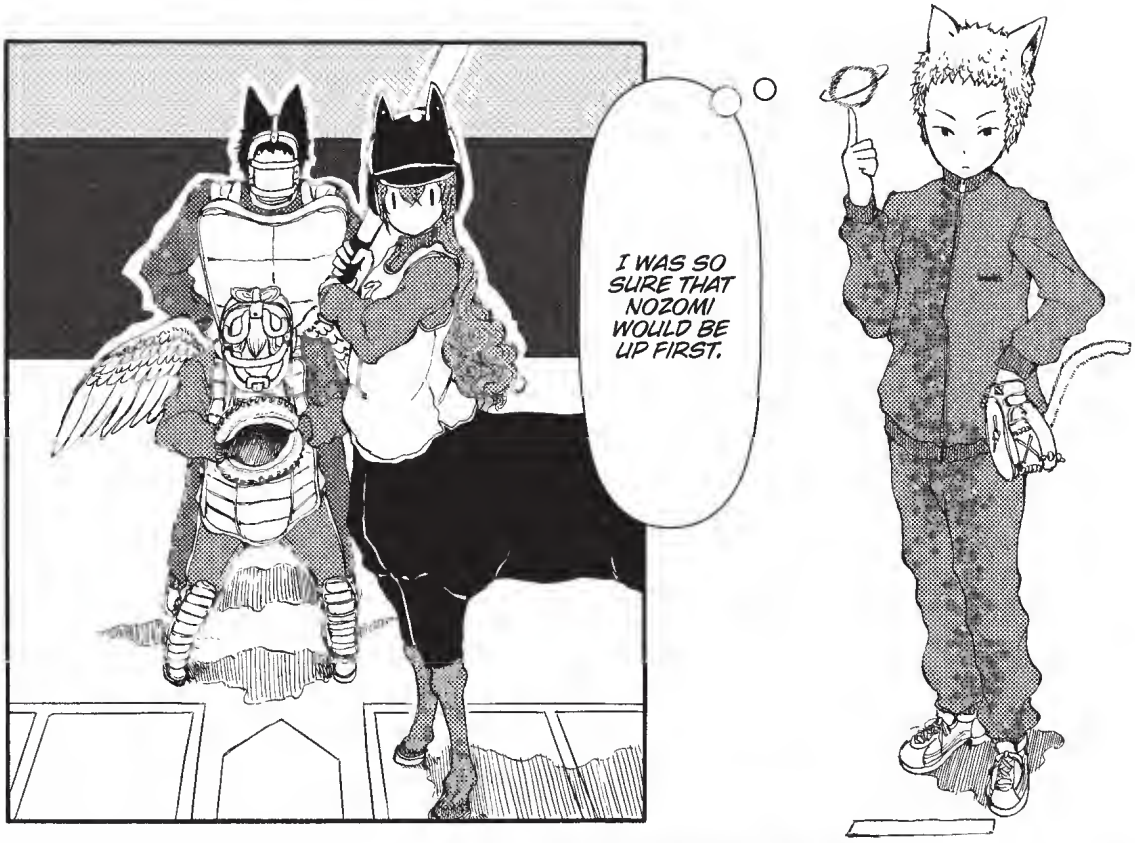
Sis! Carry!
Hold us!
I'VE BEEN SUPPORT-ING MY LITTLE SISTERS WITH THESE ARMS FOR YEARS.

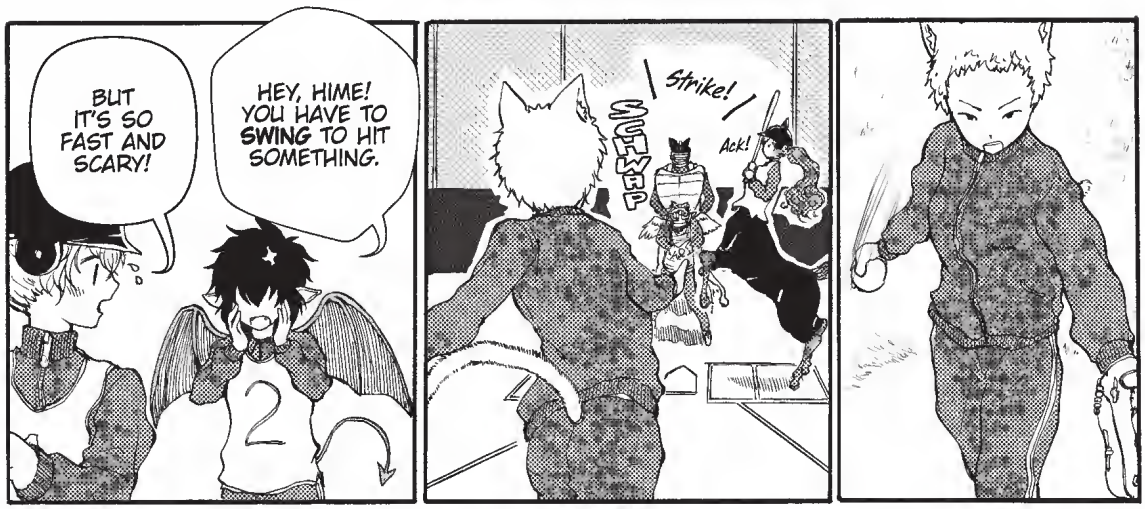

VWOOOSH
There...!
Mmph!

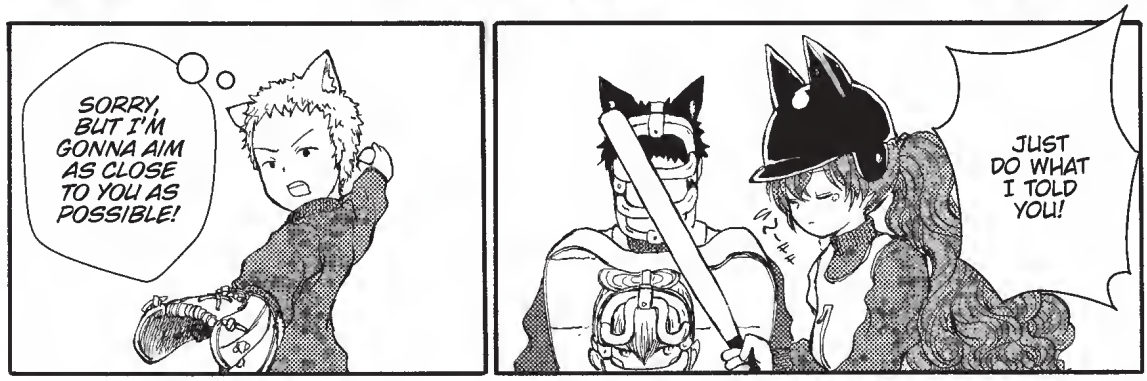

CLANG

It's just a school game, you don't have to be so depressed...
One left!
DROP
Heh...
There!
Fight!
Do your best, current Softball Club!
I'M JUST A BENCH-WARMER, THOUGH.
CRACK
BUT SO HEAVY!
SO SLOW.


IT MADE IT THROUGH!
SHWIP
HEY, WHAT?
TAP
SNATCH
GOTCHA!
Okay. Switch!
HEY, WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?!
EEEE! SO COOL!


I WAS SO SURE THAT NOZOMI WOULD BE UP FIRST.


BUT IT'S SO FAST AND SCARY!
HEY, HIME! YOU HAVE TO SWING TO HIT SOMETHING.
Strike!
SCHWAP
Ack!

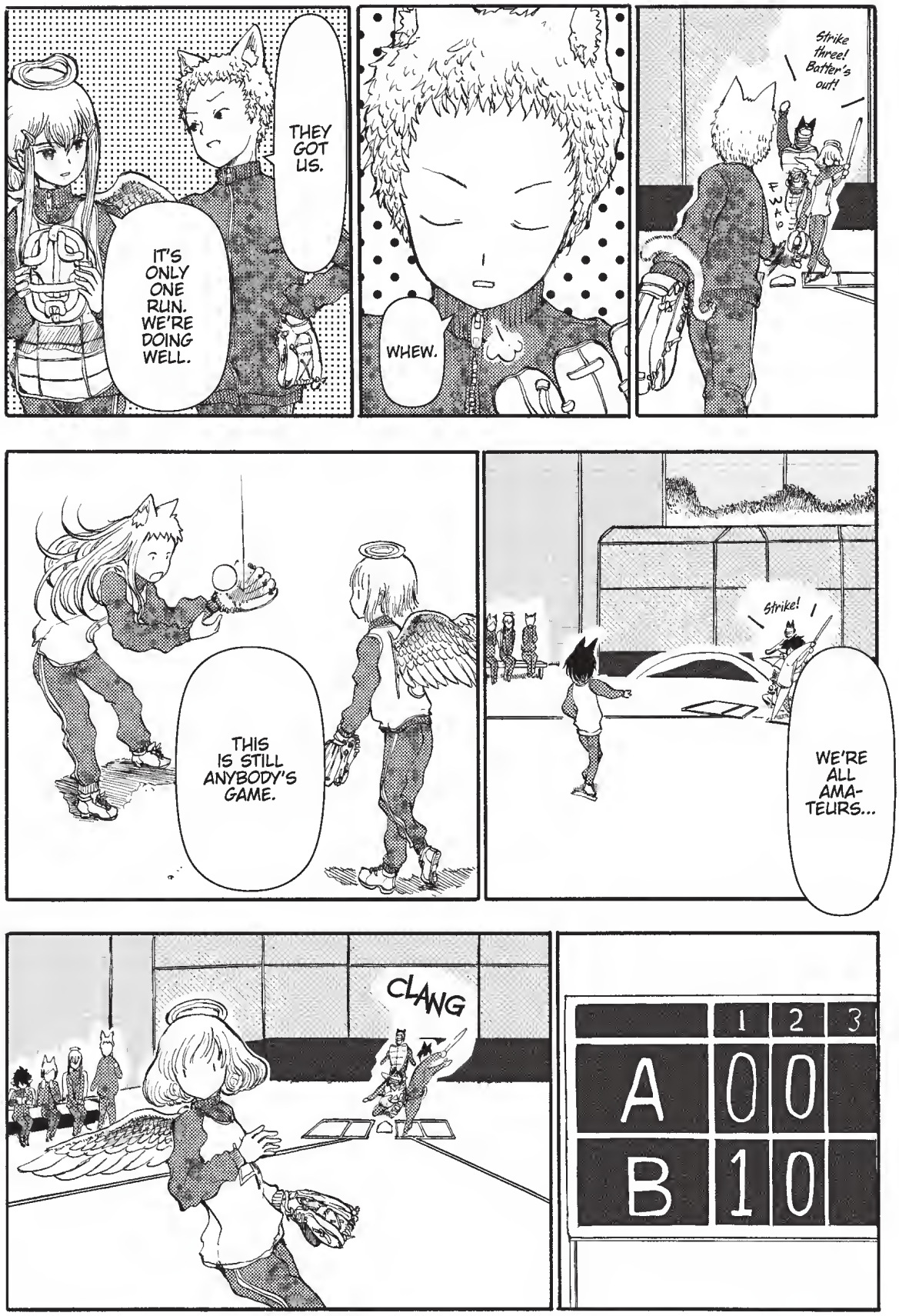

SORRY, BUT I'M GONNA AIM AS CLOSE TO YOU AS POSSIBLE!
JUST DO WHAT I TOLD YOU!

ALL RIGHT, GOT IT!
CLINK
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
Eeek!
SO THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE AIMING FOR.
WE CAN'T BLOCK HER.
NO WAY! NO WAY! THERE'S NO WAY!
KA-TSU-RA!

I NEED TO GET A STRIKE OUT OR AN INFIELD FLY BEFORE SHE STEALS THE OTHER BASES.
SO THAT MEANS ...
WE'RE NOT PROS... WE DON'T HAVE THE SKILLS TO TAG HER OUT WHILE DODGING.
I'm sorry!
That was dangerous!
AH, SHOOT... I POPPED IT UP.
CLANG
AKIRA! IT'S GOING YOUR WAY!

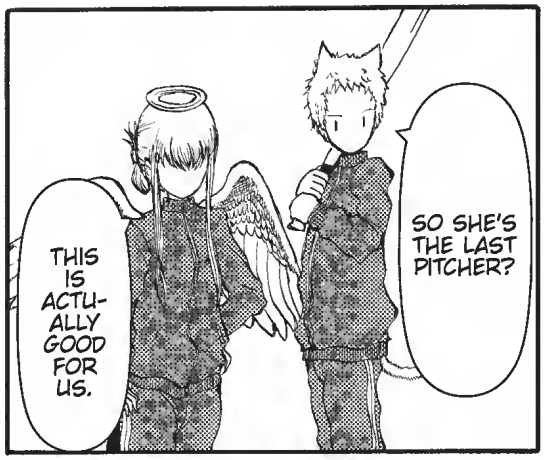
HEY, AKIRA!
Huh?
Huh?
HIME! DON'T RUN YET--!
STEP STEP
TCH... HOW TROUBLE-SOME.
SNATCH

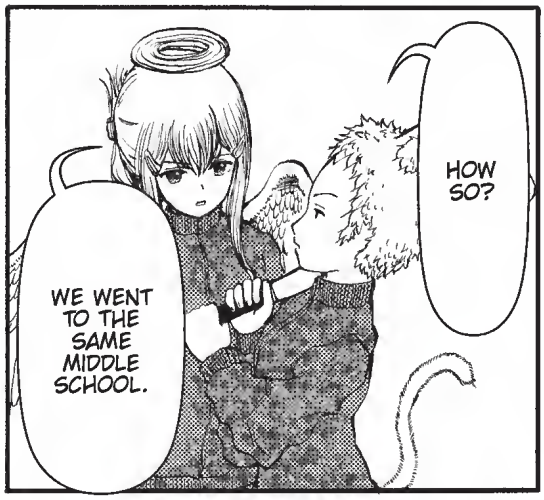
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE
AKIRA, HURRY UP AND THROW IT!
RUN, HIME!
So fast!
Yes! First run!
Hiiya!
SNATCH
Nice!
CLANG
1
0
1
SQUEAK


THEY GOT US.
IT'S ONLY ONE RUN. WE'RE DOING WELL.
WHEW.
Strike three! Batter's out!
FWAP
THIS IS STILL ANYBODY'S GAME.
Strike!
WE'RE ALL AMA-TEURS...
CLANG
1 2 3
A 0 0
B 1 0

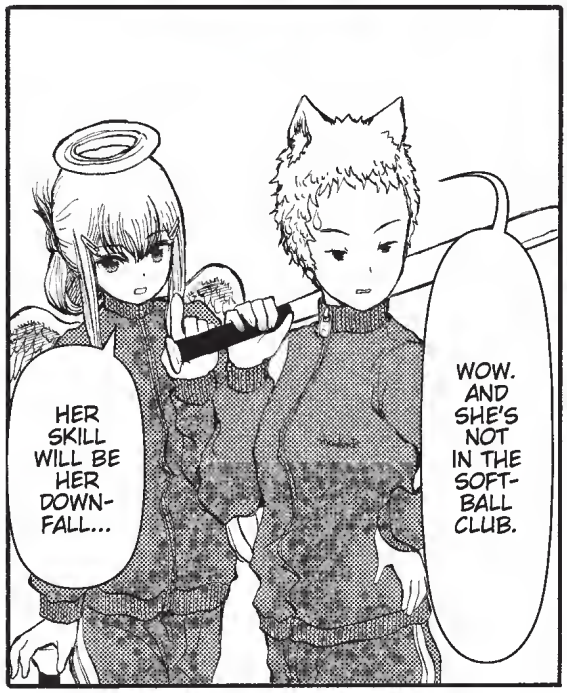
WHAT?! NO WAY!
KYOKO, IT WENT YOUR WAY--!
OOH! I CAUGHT IT! A MIRACLE!
You did it!
PLOP
CLINK
Take that!
1 2 3 4 5
A 0 0 0
B 1 0

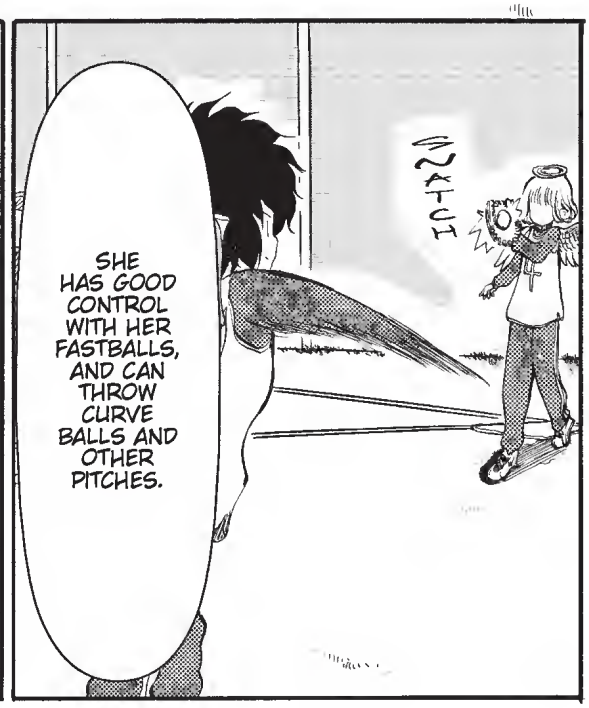
OUT!
Nngh!
IT'S A SQUEEZE!
1 2 3 4 5 6
A 0 0 0
B 1 0 0
You were so close!
I WASN'T PLANNING ON PLAYING SO SERIOUSLY!
NICE SLIDE!
THIS IS IT... THE BEST PLAYERS ON BOTH TEAMS WILL BE UP.
HERE WE ARE... LAST INNING.


SO SHE'S THE LAST PITCHER?
THIS IS ACTU-ALLY GOOD FOR US.


HOW SO?
WE WENT TO THE SAME MIDDLE SCHOOL.

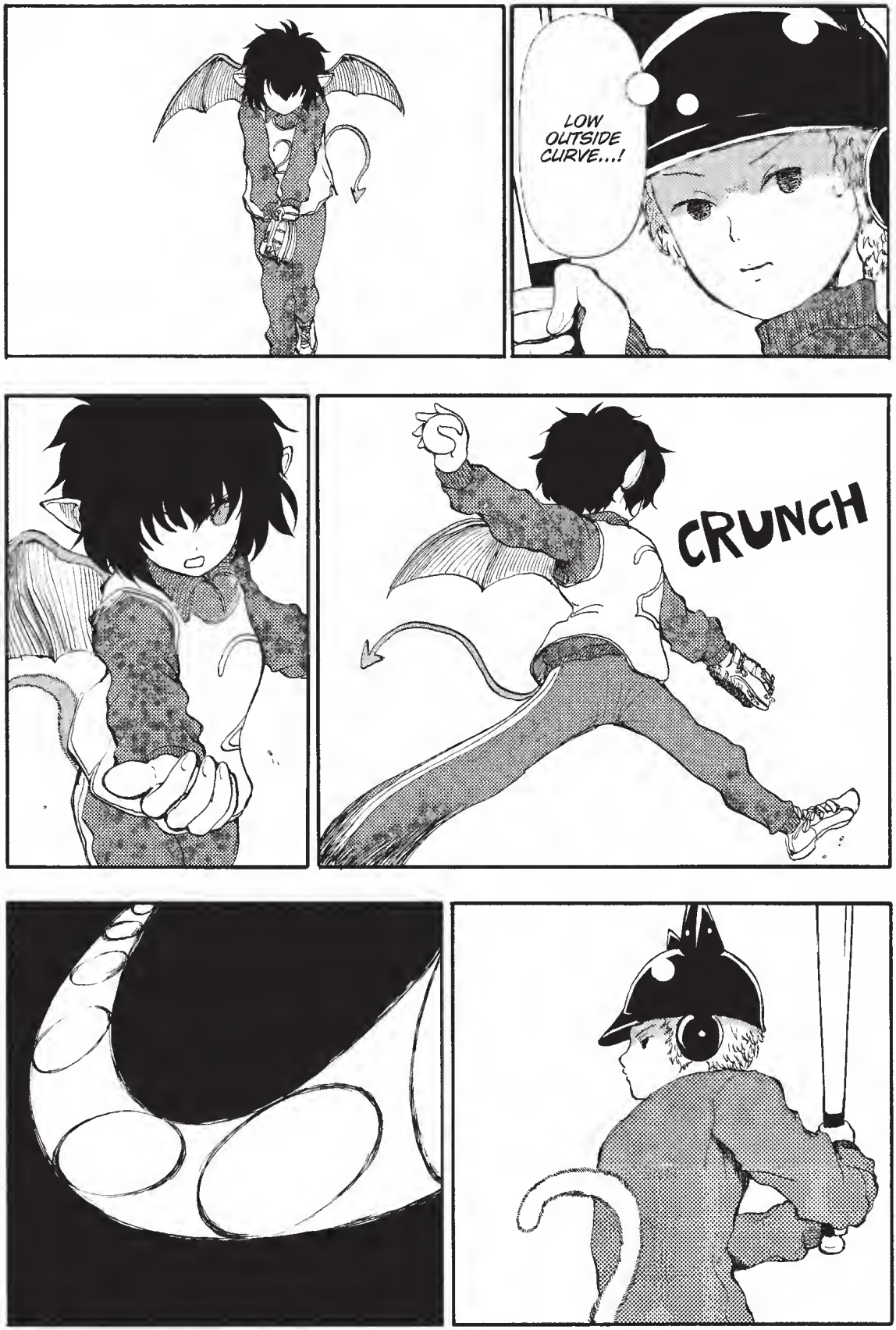
POFF
2


WOW. AND SHE'S NOT IN THE SOFT-BALL CLUB.
HER SKILL WILL BE HER DOWN-FALL...

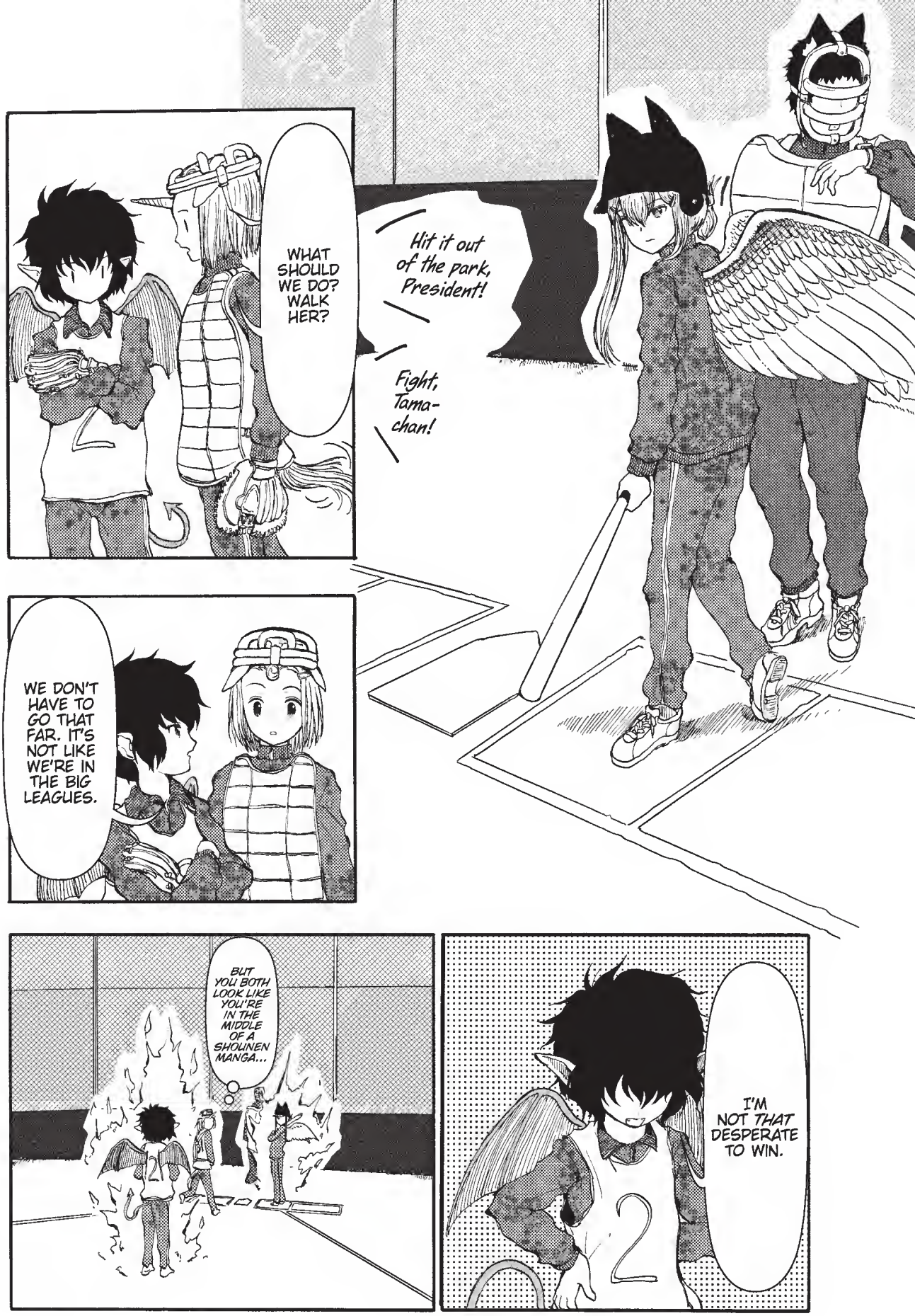

SHE HAS GOOD CONTROL WITH HER FASTBALLS, AND CAN THROW CURVE BALLS AND OTHER PITCHES.
WATCH

YES.
WAIT, TAMA-CHAN... YOU CAN REALLY READ HER PITCHES?
AN AMATEUR'S PITCHES ARE HARD TO PREDICT, BUT I CAN READ HERS.
I'M COMING.
WE'RE GOING TO RUN OUT OF TIME.
HEY, HURRY UP.
THIS IS A RISKY PLAN...
JUST MISS THE FIRST TWO BALLS ON PURPOSE.
All right!

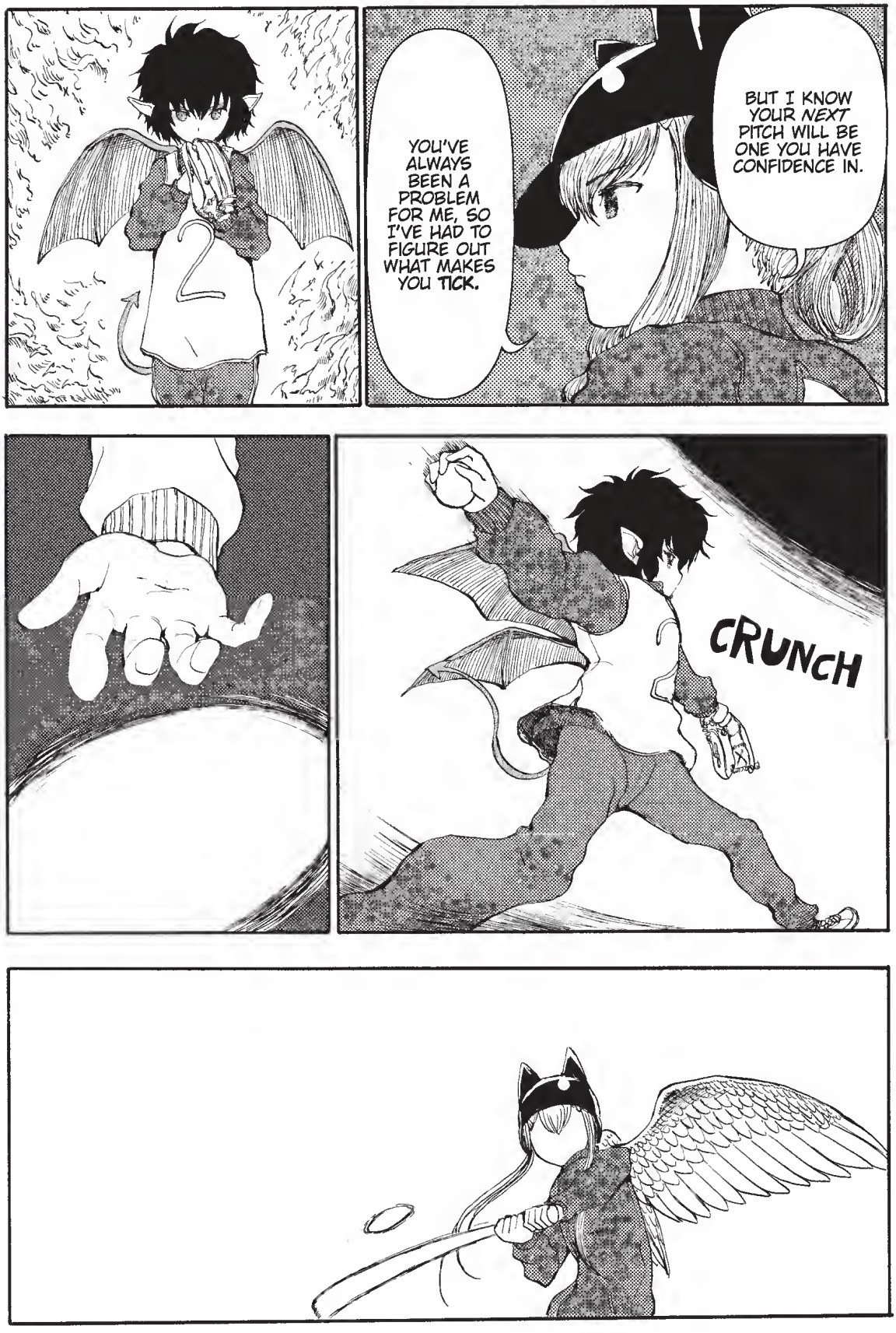
STRIKE!
SCHWAP
CRUNCH
Strike two!
SCHWAP
POFF
2
SO FAST...
I REALLY HOPE SHE'S RIGHT ABOUT THIS.
SHE'LL THROW AN OUTSIDE CURVE TO FINISH YOU OFF.
EVEN IF I COULD READ HER THROWS, I CAN'T HIT THEM STRAIGHT ON.

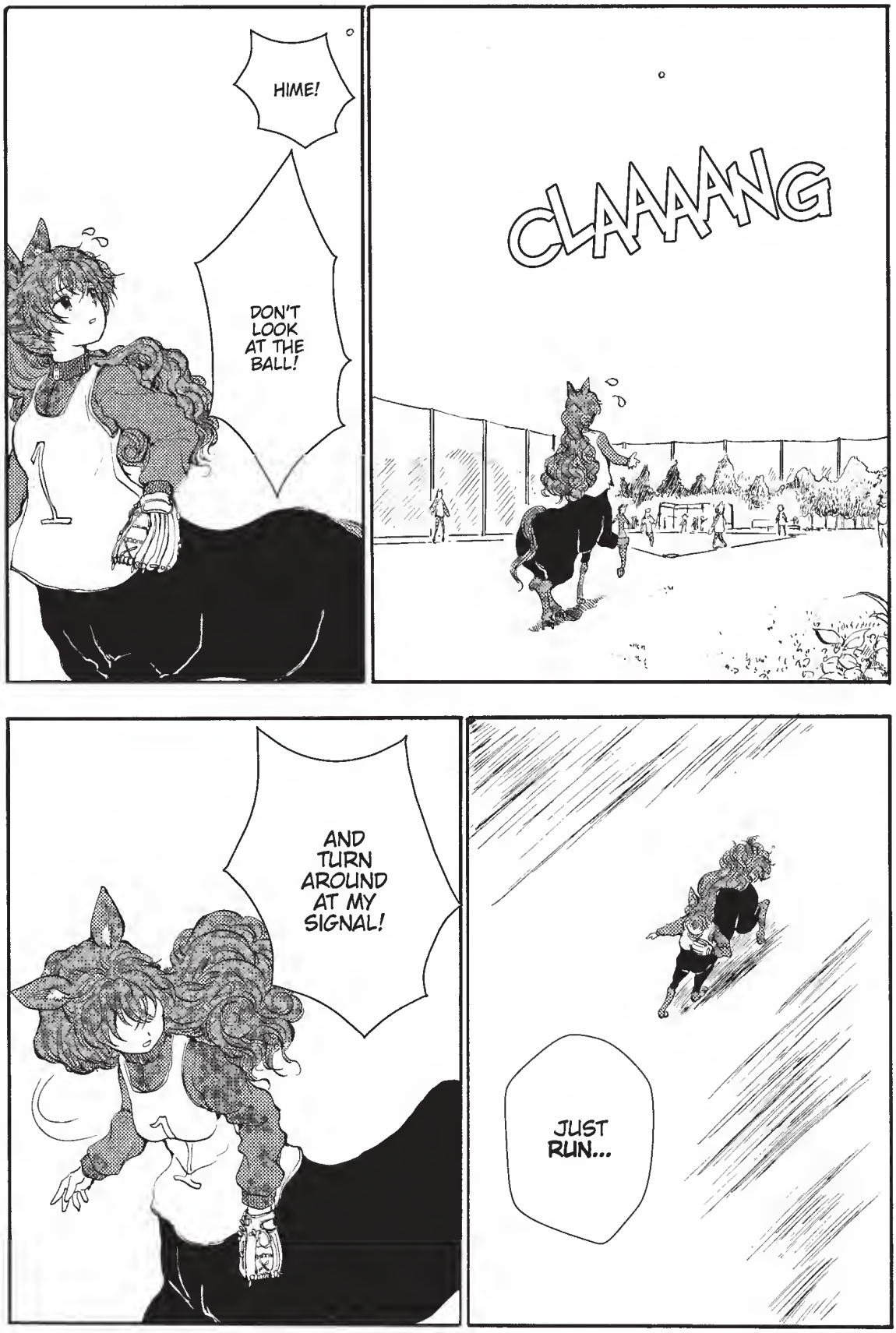

LOW OUTSIDE CURVE...!
CRUNCH

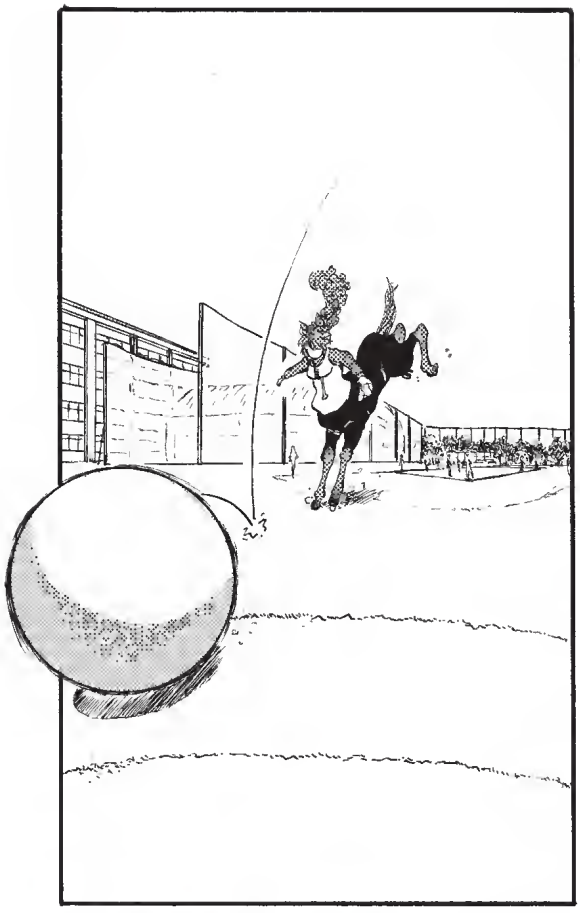
OH.
I ACTUALLY HIT IT.
CLANG
Whoa! Whoa!
Crap!
POFF
She did it!
5

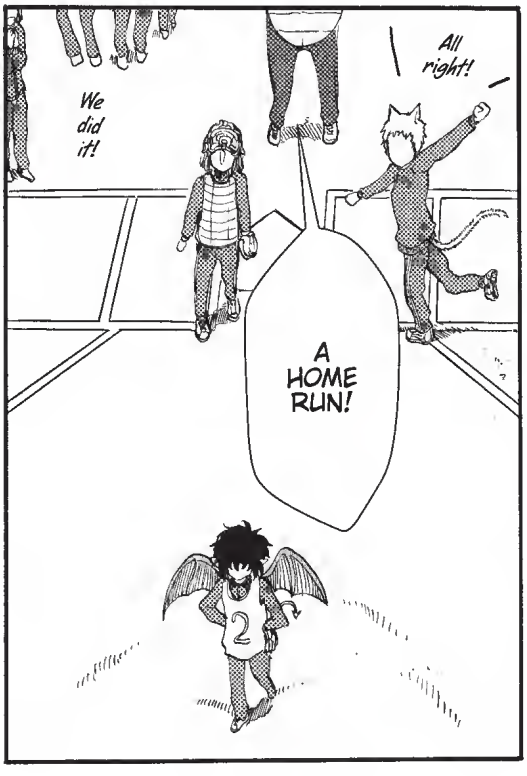

WHAT SHOULD WE DO? WALK HER?
Hit it out of the park, President!
Fight, Tama-chan!
WE DON'T HAVE TO GO THAT FAR. IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE IN THE BIG LEAGUES.
BUT YOU BOTH LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A SHOUNEN MANGA...
I'M NOT THAT DESPERATE TO WIN.

POFF
SCHWAP
Strike!
SHWISH
Ball!
Strike two!
A BALL? YOU'VE GOTTEN MUCH MORE PATIENT.


YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A PROBLEM FOR ME, SO I'VE HAD TO FIGURE OUT WHAT MAKES YOU TICK.
BUT I KNOW YOUR *NEXT* PITCH WILL BE ONE YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE IN.
CRUNCH


HIME!
DON'T LOOK AT THE BALL!
CLAAAANG
AND TURN AROUND AT MY SIGNAL!
JUST RUN...




We did it!
All right!
A HOME RUN!
2

NOZOMI-CHAN... I THINK SHE'S READING YOUR THROWS.
I BLEW IT...
It was my pitch.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, HIME.
THE LOOK ON HER FACE SAID THAT EVERY-THING WENT ACCORD-ING TO PLAN.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT... JUST THROW AS FAST AS YOU CAN.
SO WHAT SHOULD I HAVE DONE?
SHE MIGHT HAVE KNOWN WHICH PITCH I CONSIDERED MY BEST...
NOZOMI-CHAN, YOU AND TAMA-CHAN WENT TO THE SAME MIDDLE SCHOOL, RIGHT?

YOU'RE RIGHT.
What?! I don't know if I can catch that!
Won't that work?
Strike!
SHWIP
Switch!
1 2 3 4 5 6
0 0 2
0 0
WELL, WE'VE TAKEN THE LEAD, AND WE'LL WIN AS LONG AS WE PROTECT IT.
OH, THEN THERE GOES OUR ADVANTAGE.
Strike two! Strike three! Batter's out!
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S JUST THROWING THE BALL WITHOUT ANY CHANGE-UP.

SHOULD I END IT HERE? JUST NOT COUNT THE TOP OF THE FOURTH?
HUH? WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT.
Hime-chan, try your best!

YOU LOOK DETER-MINED!
CRUNCH
IT'S NOT SCARY. IT'S NOT SCARY...
OOOH! HIME'S RARE SERIOUS FACE!
RELAX. JUST RELAX. THINK ABOUT LUNCH.
I SHOULD GO FOR A BALL AND UP THE SWING COUNT!
SHWIP
EVEN IF SHE HIT IT BY ACCIDENT, IT WOULD BE SCARY.
Strike!
SWIPE
SCHWAP

IF SHE THREW A BALL...
SHE WAS JUST TRYING TO GET ME TO SWING.
THAT WAS A BALL, RIGHT?
IF THAT'S THE CASE...
GRIP
SHE MIGHT THROW ANOTHER ONE.
IF SHE SWUNG AT THAT, I SHOULD TRY IT AGAIN.
FWUP
FWING

PUT THAT BOOK AWAY AND CHASE THE BALL!
AKIRA!
TOK
TOK

SHE'S GONNA GET IT!
SHE'LL REACH IT!
WHOA! HIME'S BACK ALREADY?

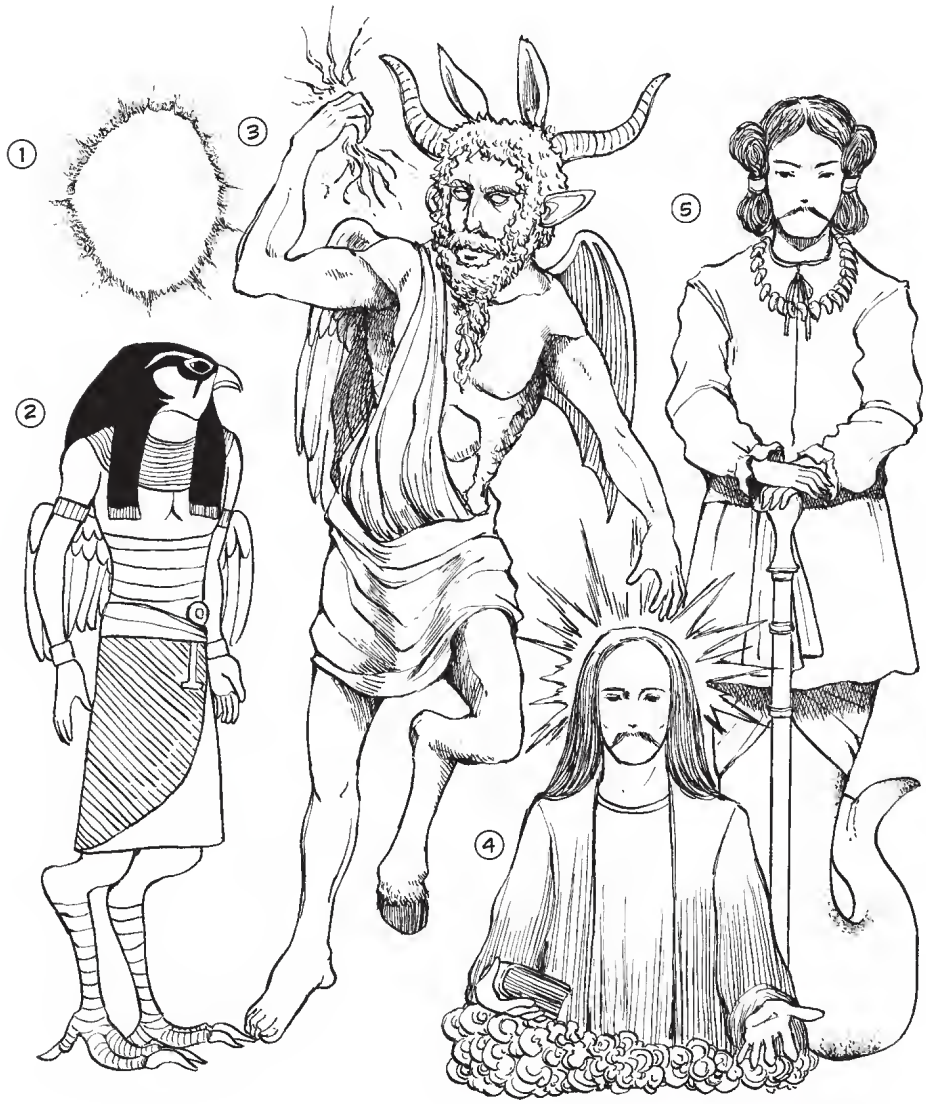
SHOOP
Seriously?
Hey! Bad doggie!
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
It was a good game.
WHAT?!
I'M GOING TO CALL THAT A HOME RUN. TIED AT TWO TO TWO, A DRAW!
COACH!
TIME'S UP.

A CentaUr's Life

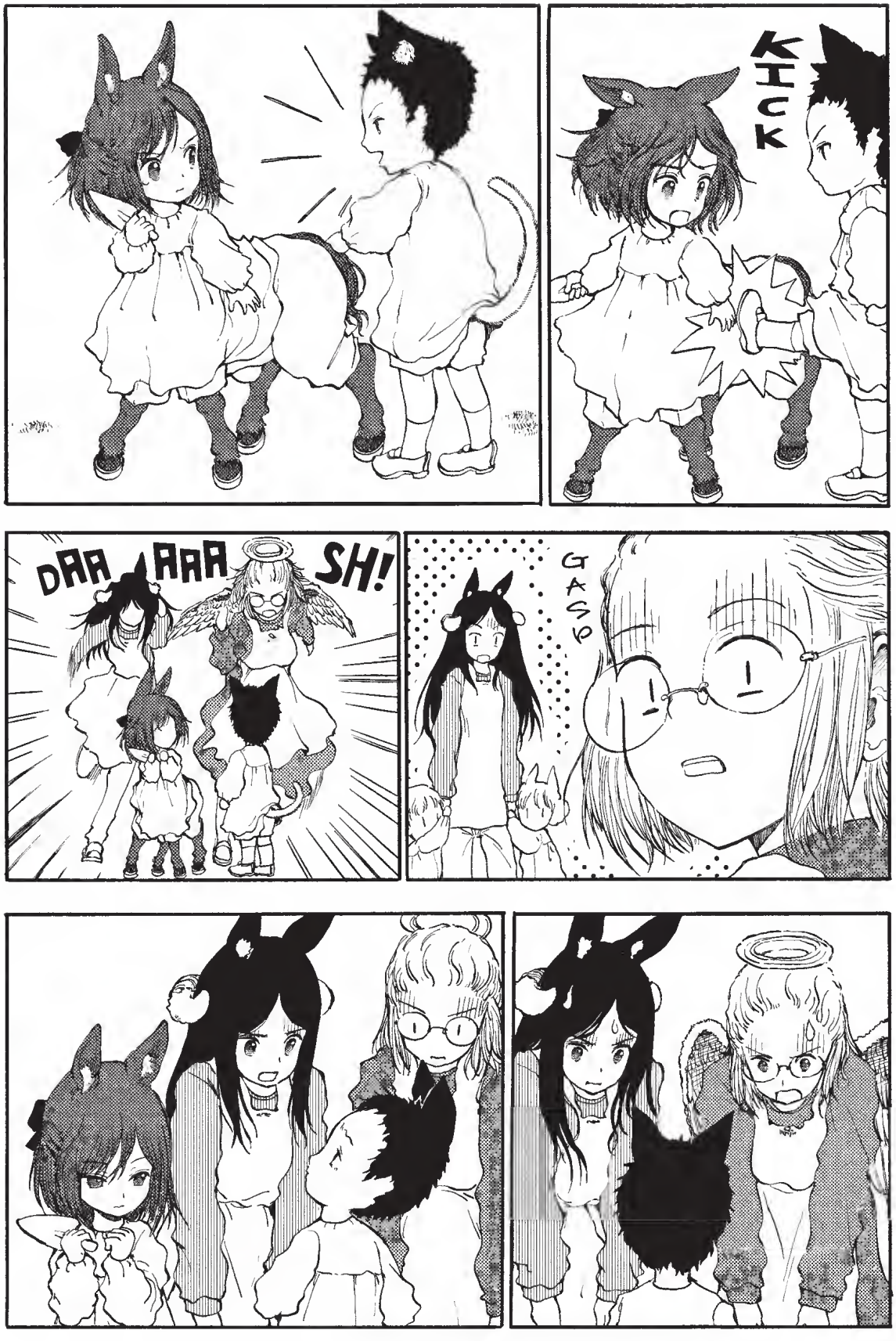
SUPERNATURAL BEINGS: GODS

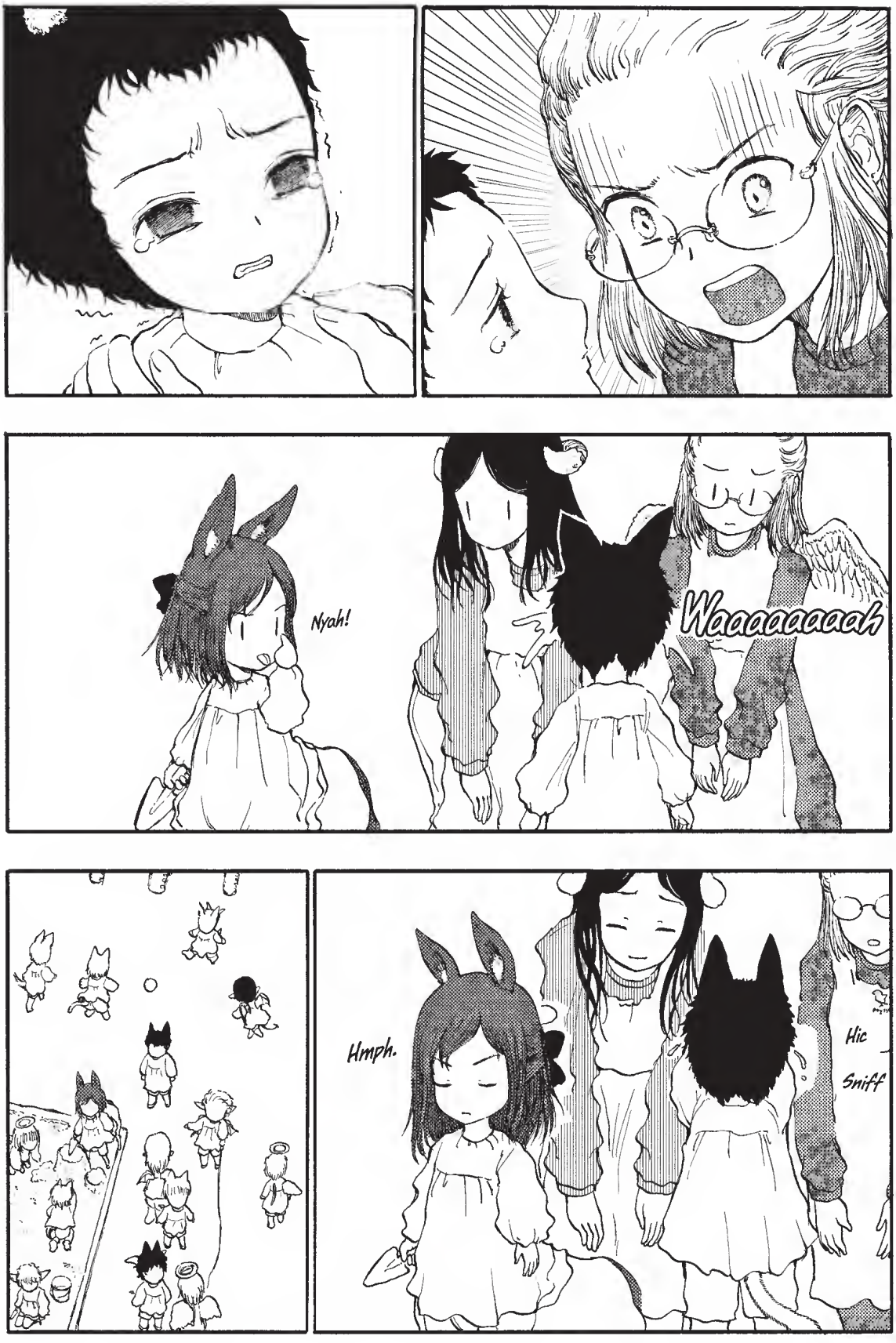
SINCE THE DAWN OF HUMANITY, PEOPLE HAVE TRIED TO EXPLAIN THE UNKNOWN AS A PRODUCT OF SUPERNATURAL BEINGS, AND OVER TIME THEY'VE STRENGTHENED THOSE BEINGS WITH THE POWER OF THEIR BELIEFS. THESE BEINGS ARE KNOWN AS GODS. THESE GODS TAKE ON DIFFERENT FORMS AND ROLES DEPENDING ON THE CULTURE AND RELIGION OF THEIR WORSHIPPERS. THESE ARE SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR INCARNATIONS OF THE SUPERNATURAL ENTITIES WE KNOW AS GODS:

1. A FORMLESS LIGHT OR FIRE. FREQUENTLY FOUND IN MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS.
2. A CREATURE THAT IS PART ANIMAL AND PART HUMAN BUT DOES NOT LOOK LIKE ANY MODERN HUMAN RACE.
3. A BEING WHO TAKES ON A SHAPE THAT COMBINES THE LOOK OF MULTIPLE MODERN RACES. COMMON IN POLYTHEISTIC RELIGIONS.
4. TAKES THE FORM OF THE RAREST EXTANT SPECIES AND IS OFTEN DEPICTED WITH CLOUDS OR LIGHT BELOW HIS TORSO.
5. LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE ANY MODERN HUMAN RACE. COMPARATIVELY INDIVIDUALISTIC AND DEPICTED DIFFERENTLY DEPENDING ON THE NATURE AND CULTURE OF WORSHIPPERS.

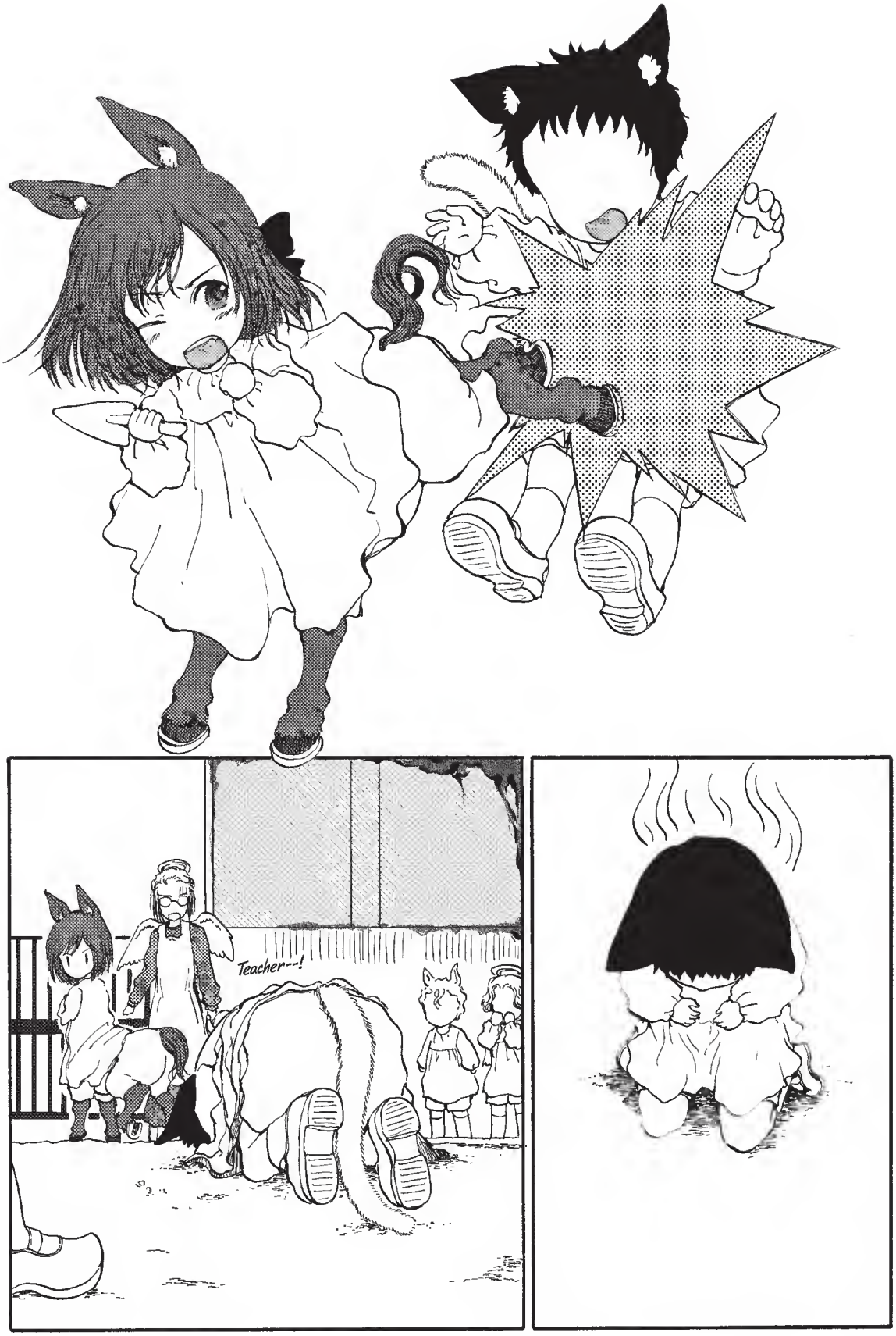


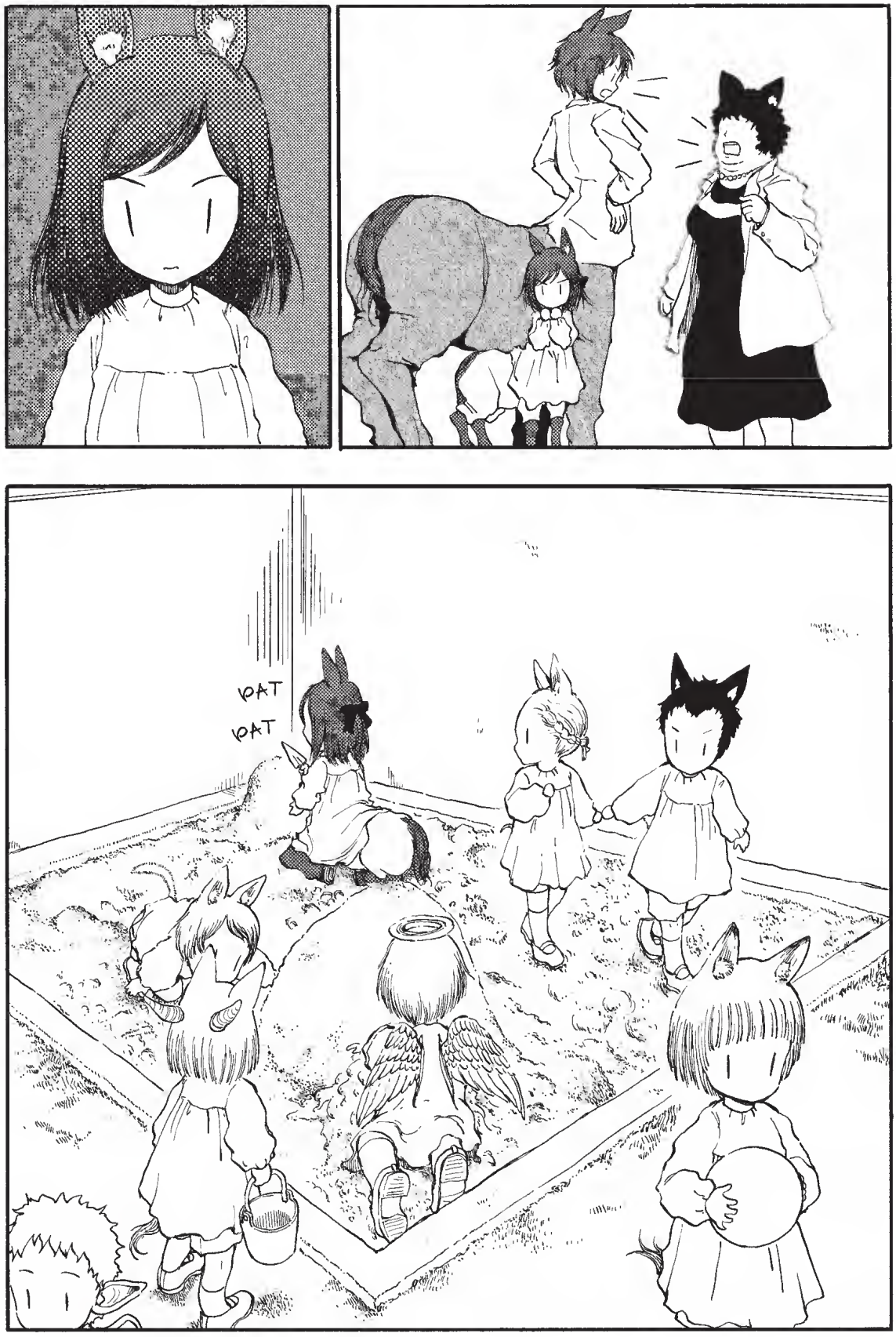
CHAPTER 10

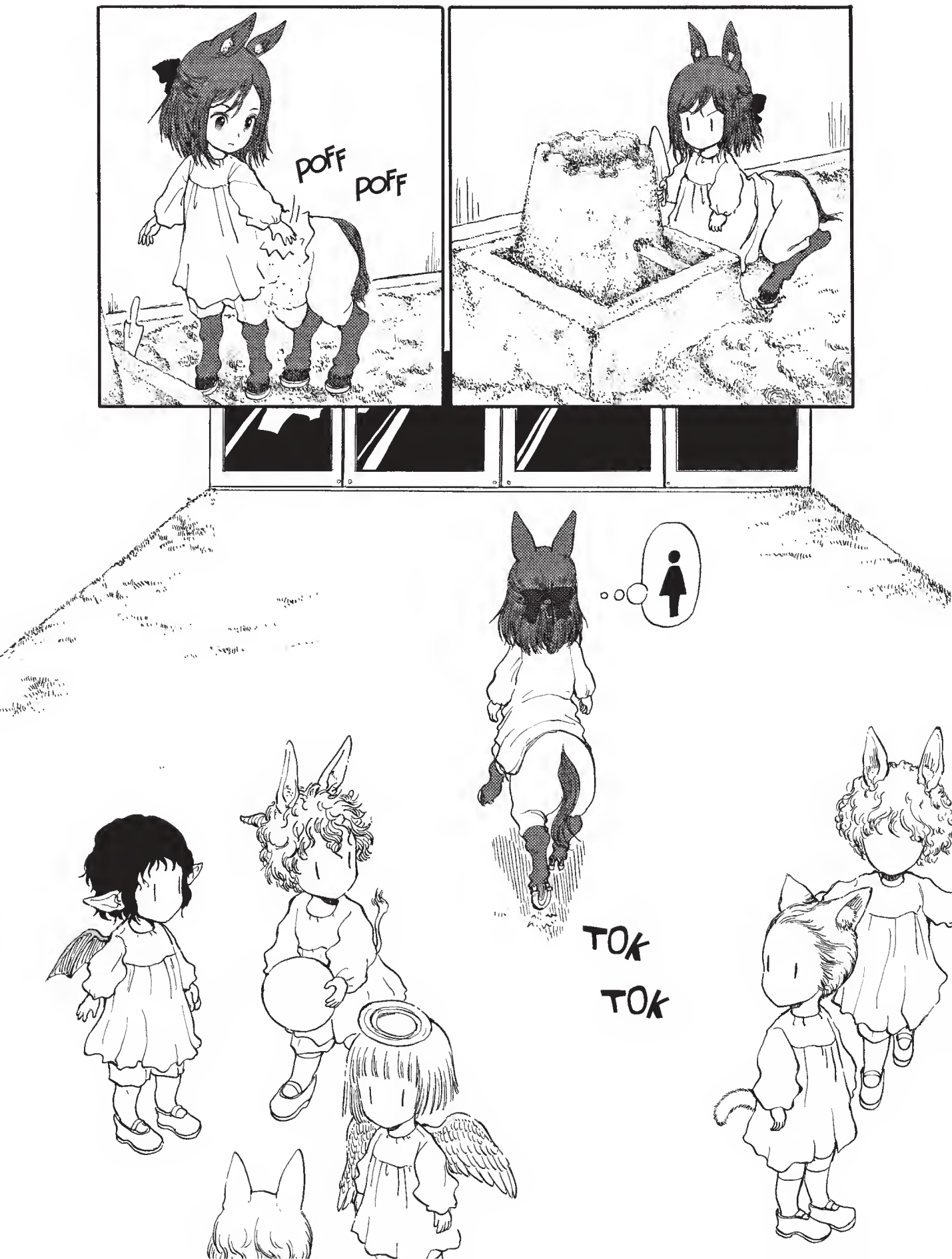

KICK
DAA AAA SH!
GASP

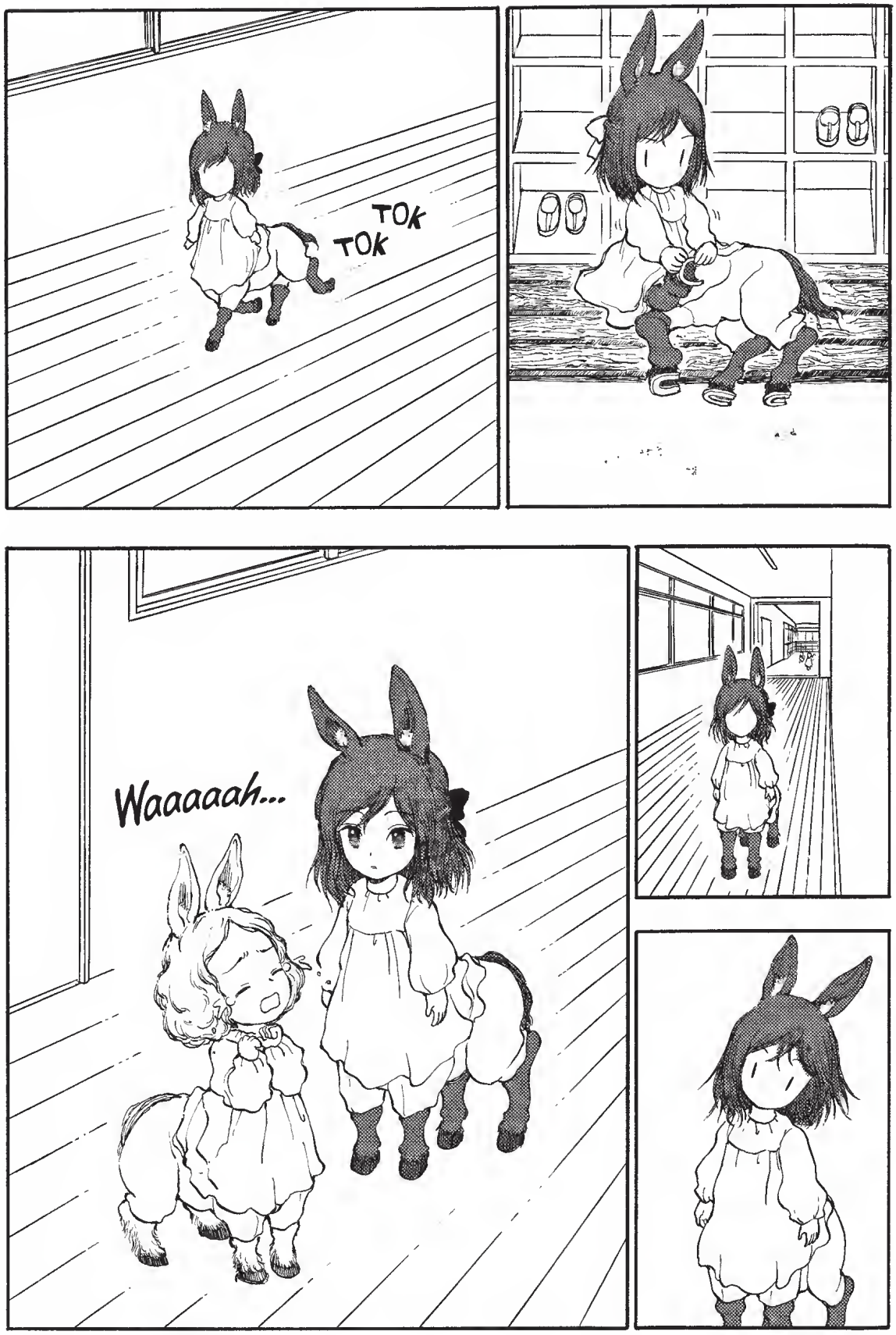

Nyah!
Waaaaaaaah
Hmph.
Hic
Sniff

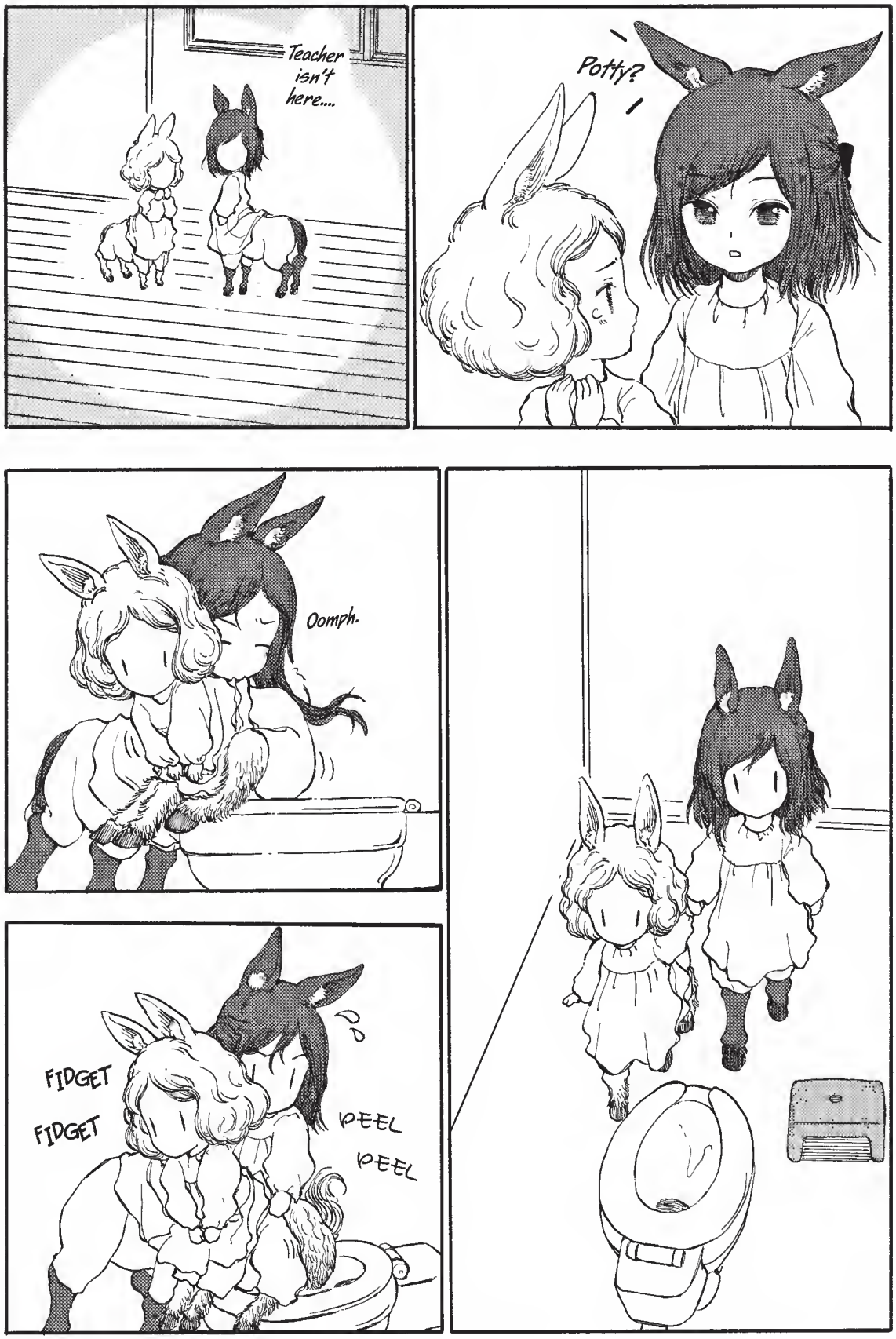
YANK
YANK


Teacher--!


PAT
PAT

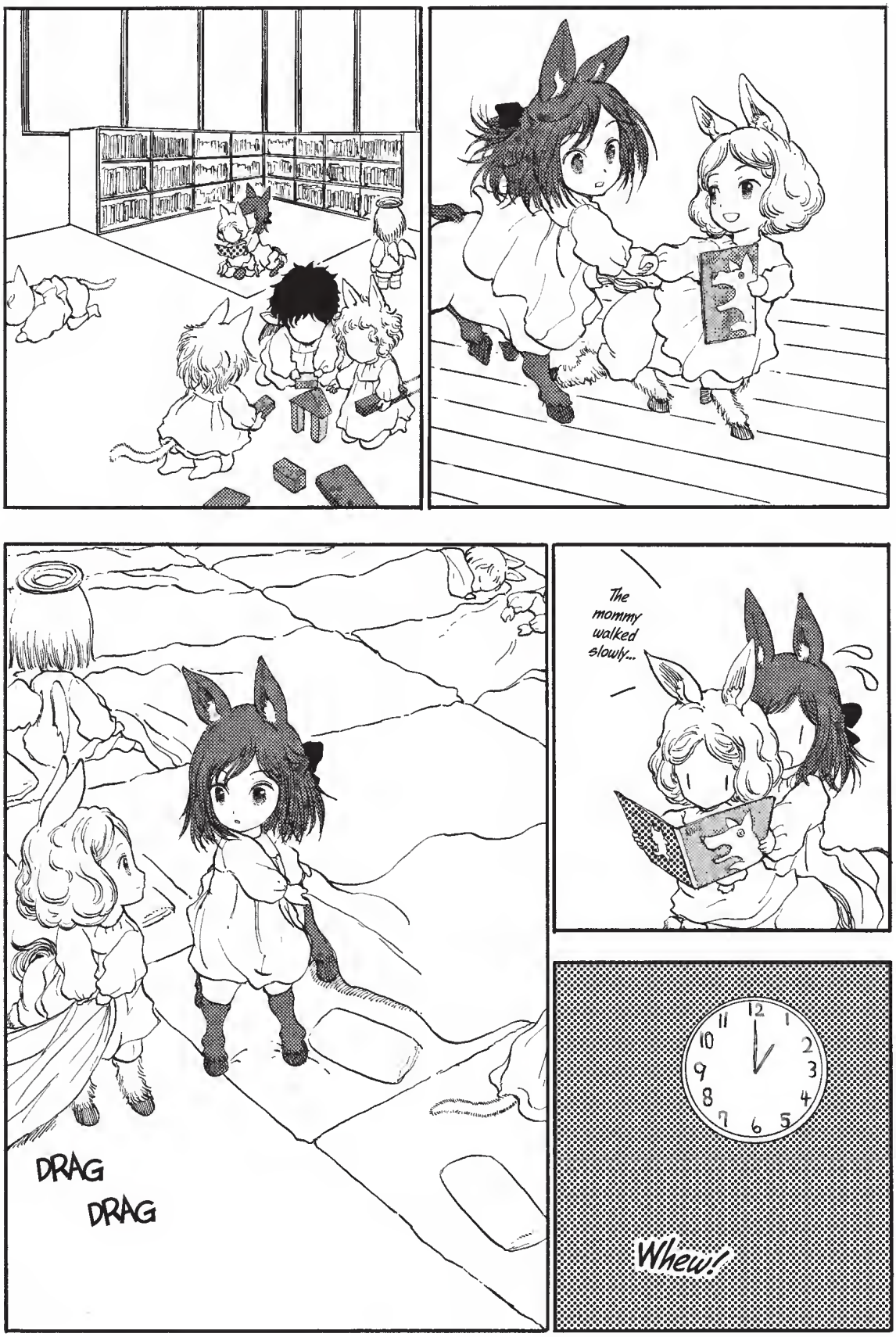

POFF
POFF
TOK
TOK


TOK
TOK
Waaaaah...

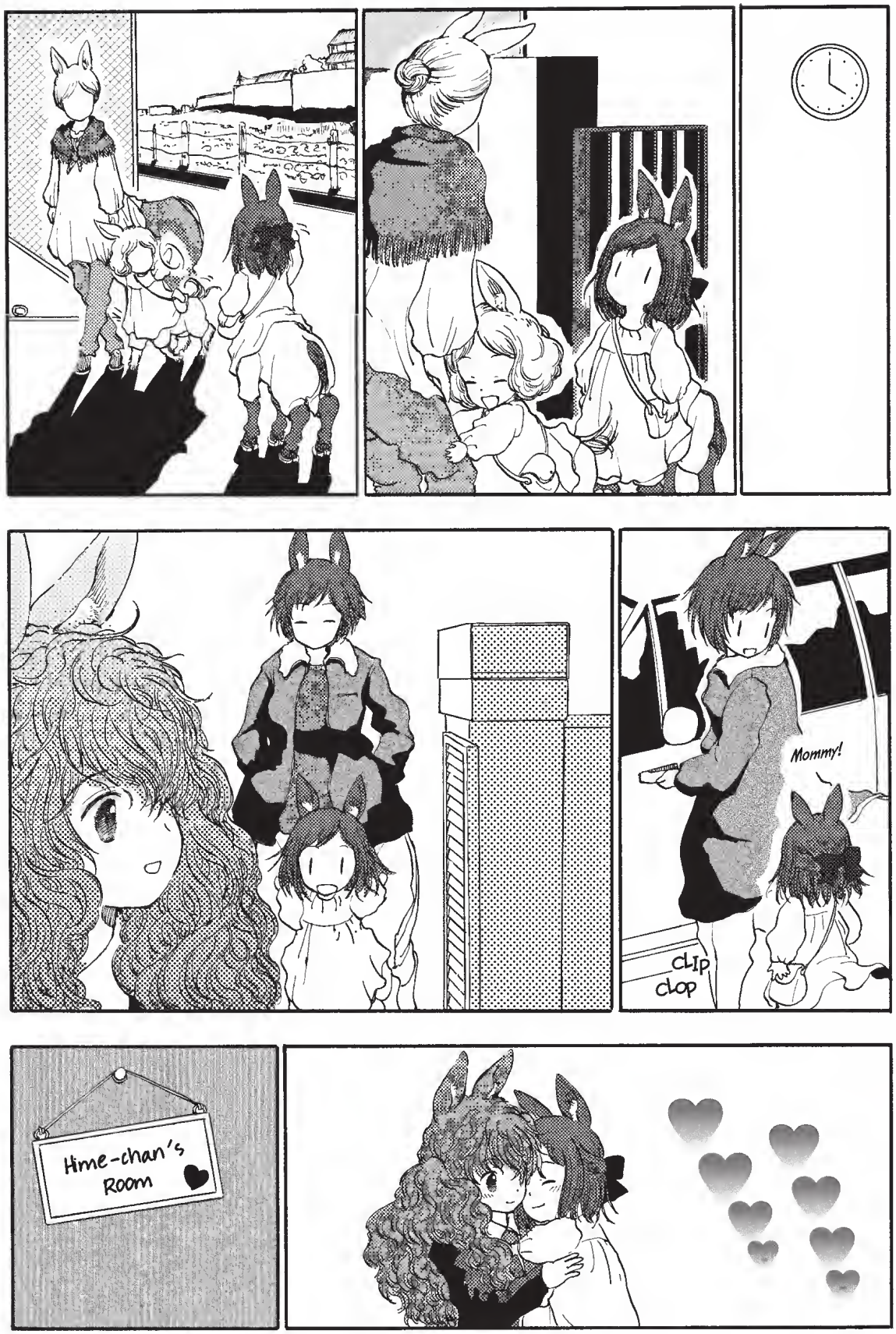

Teacher isn't here....
Potty?
Oomph.
FIDGET
FIDGET
PEEL
PEEL

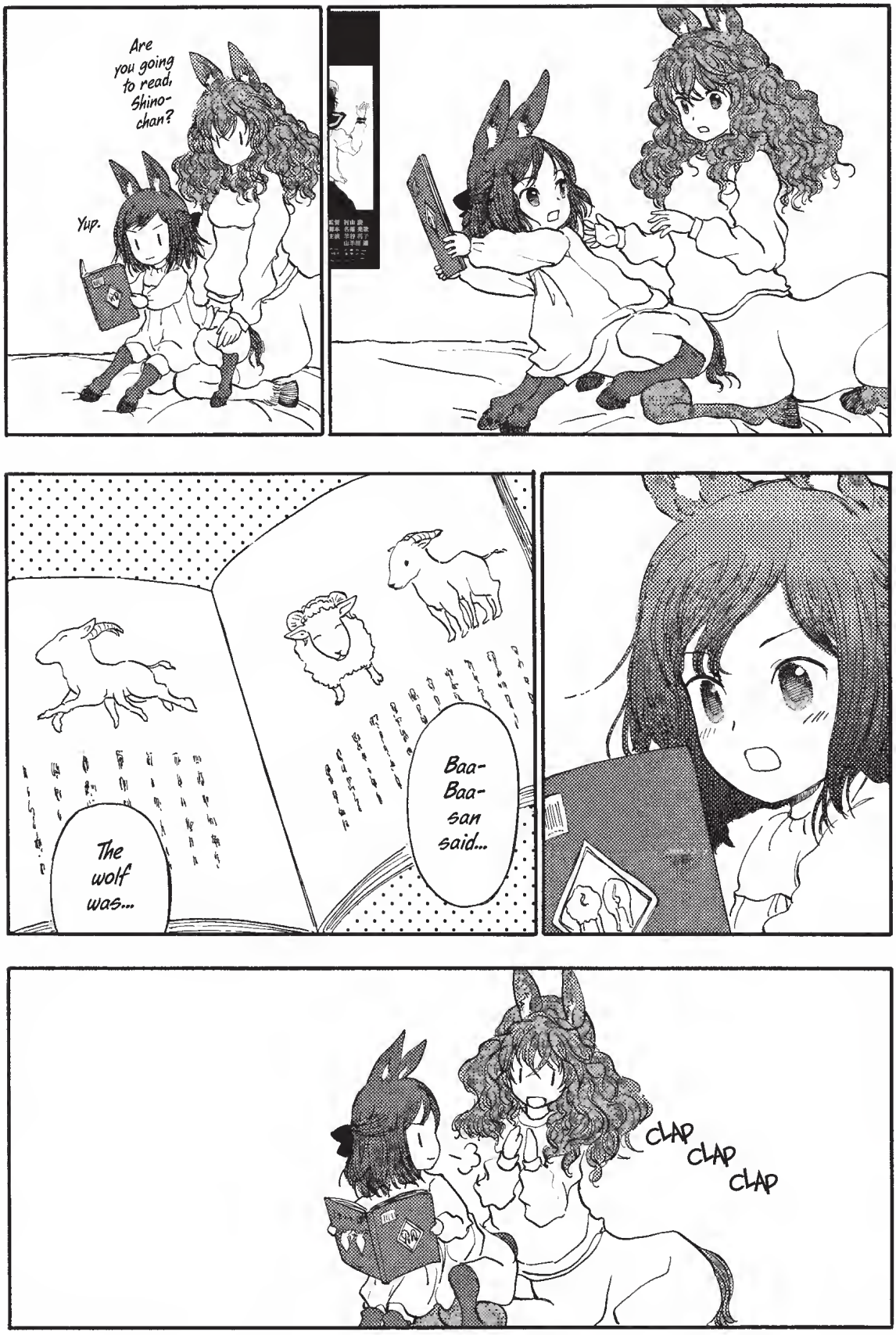
RATTLE
RATTLE
SPLASH
SPLASH
WIPE
WIPE
KA-CHUNK
My turn!

WAG
WAG
Whew!
DASH
?
CLIP
CLIP
CLIP


The mommy walked slowly...
DRAG
DRAG
Whew!

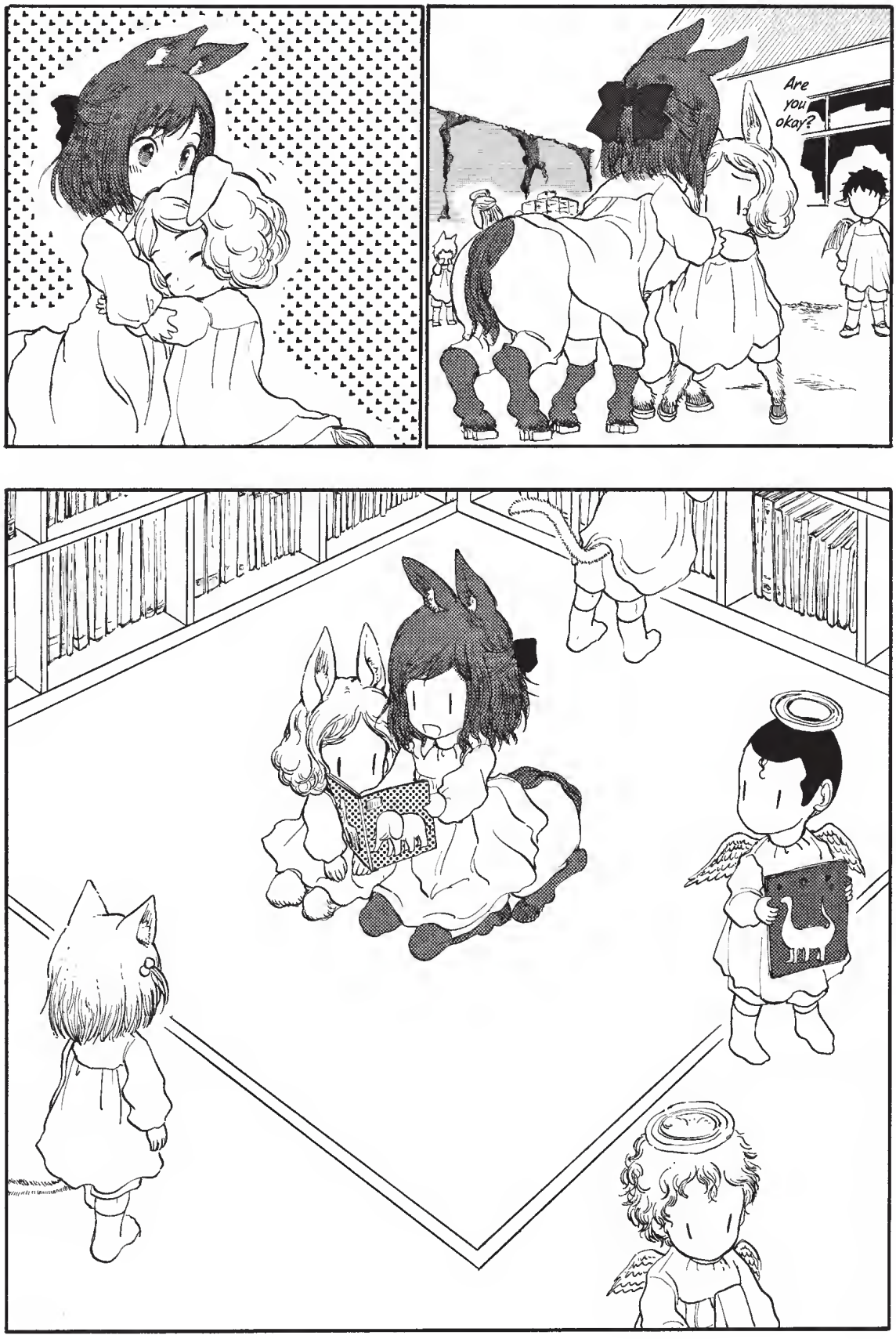
NOTE: The honorific "-tan" is a small child's mispronunciation of "-chan."

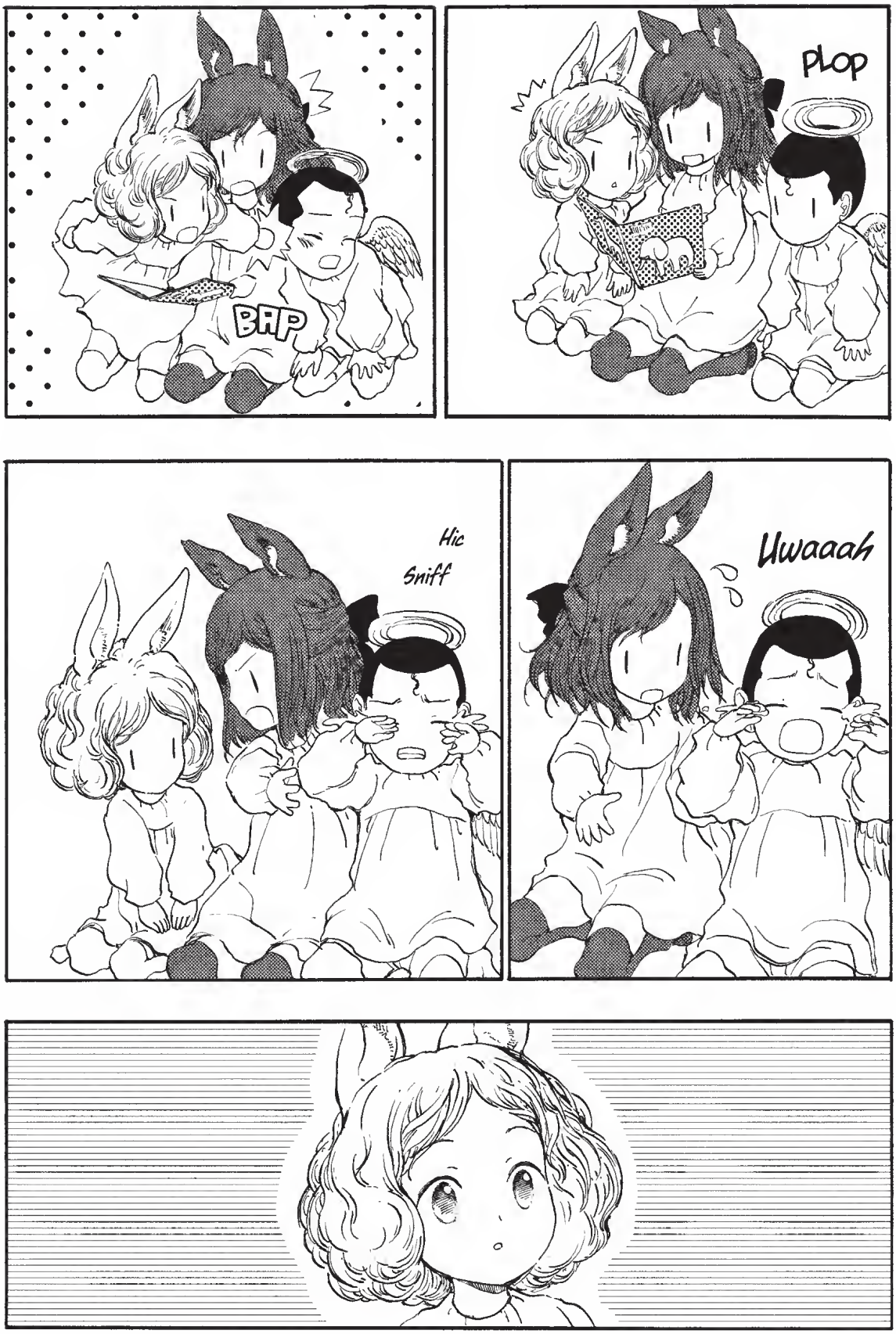

Mommy!
CLIP
clop
Hime-chan's
Room

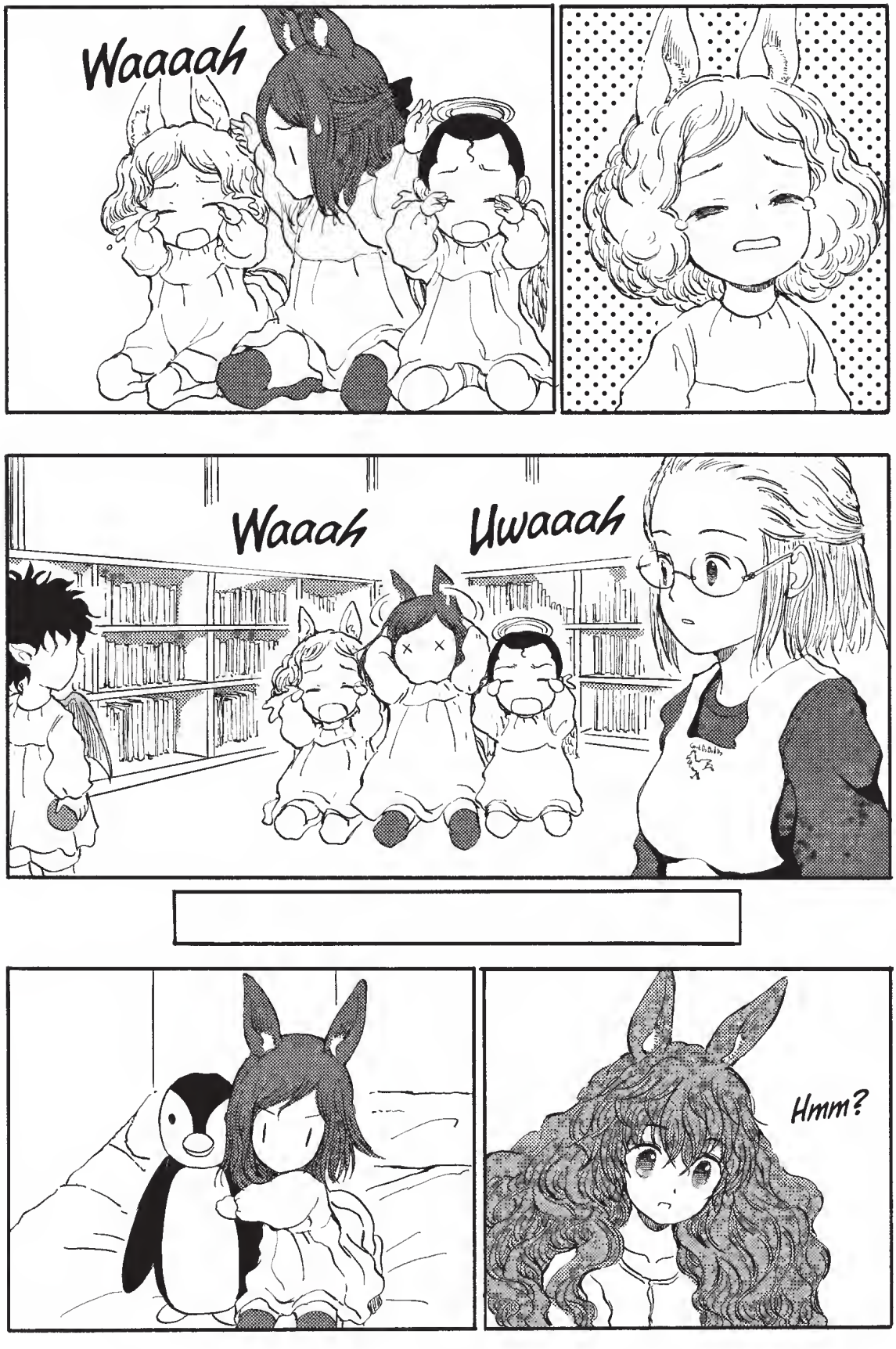

Are you going to read, Shino-chan?
Yup.
The wolf was...
Baa-Baa-san said...
CLAP CLAP CLAP

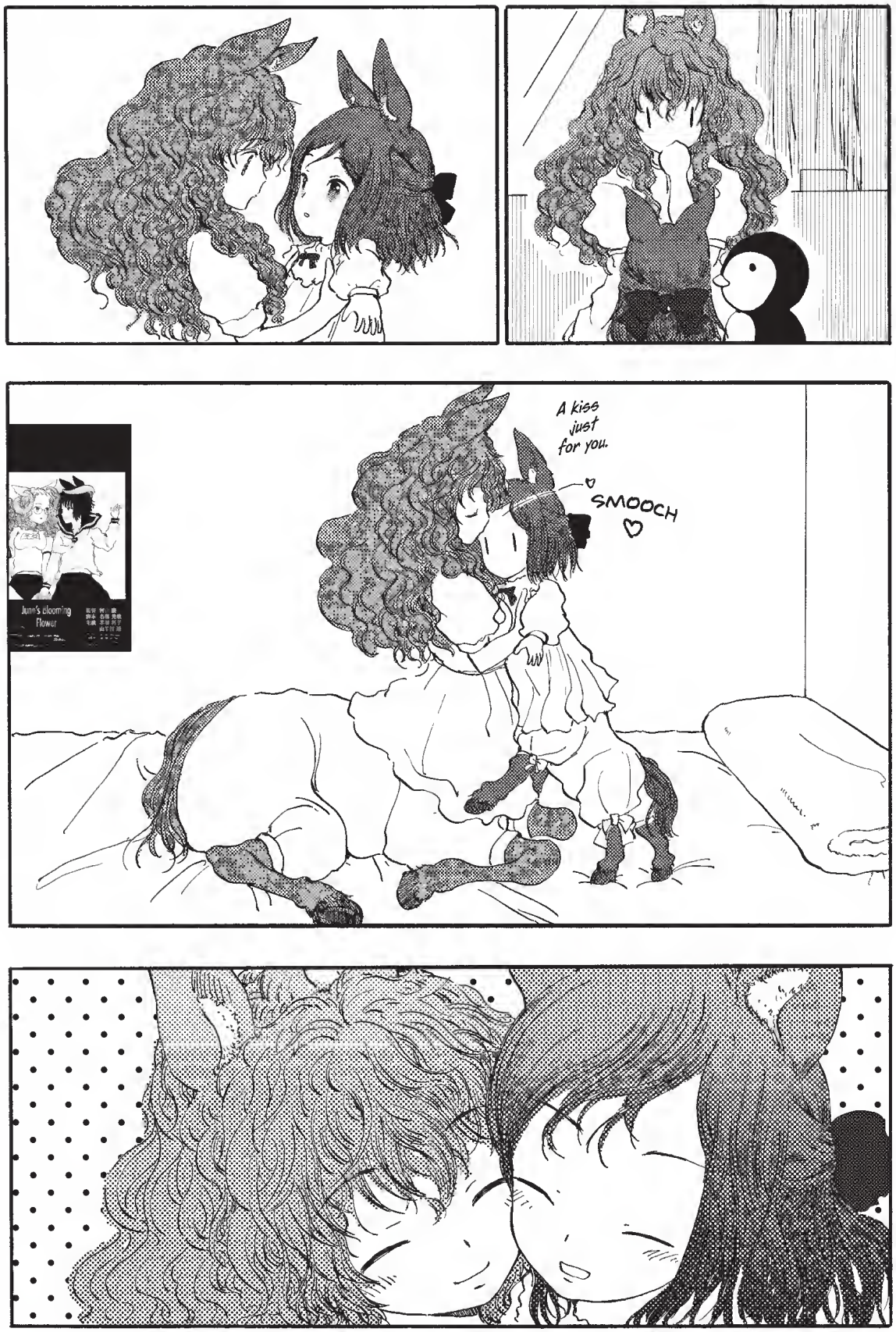
Moritani South Kinder-garten
PULL PULL
SMACK
TROT TROT

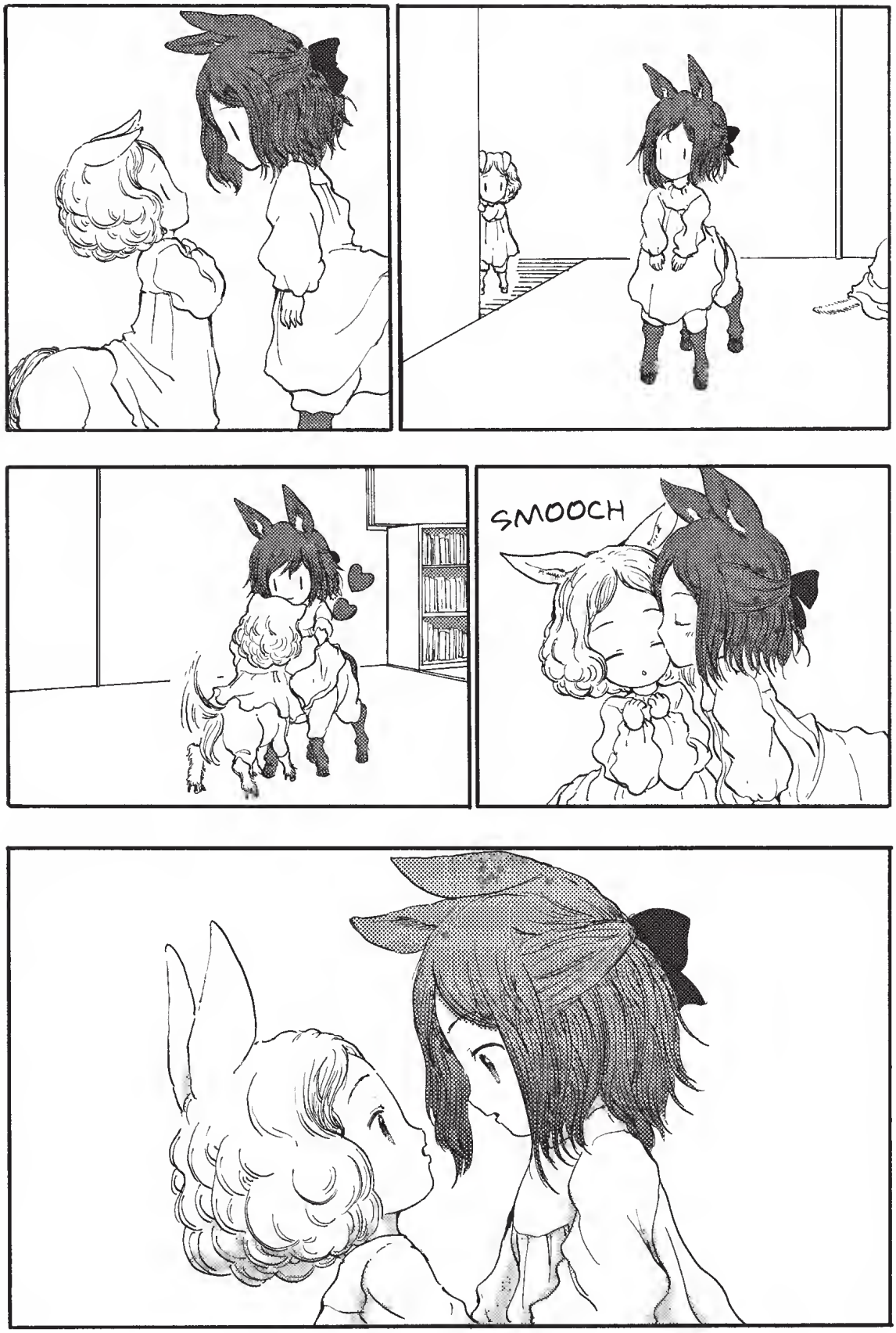
SHOVE
You!
Yah!
STEP
Hey, now--!
STOMP STOMP

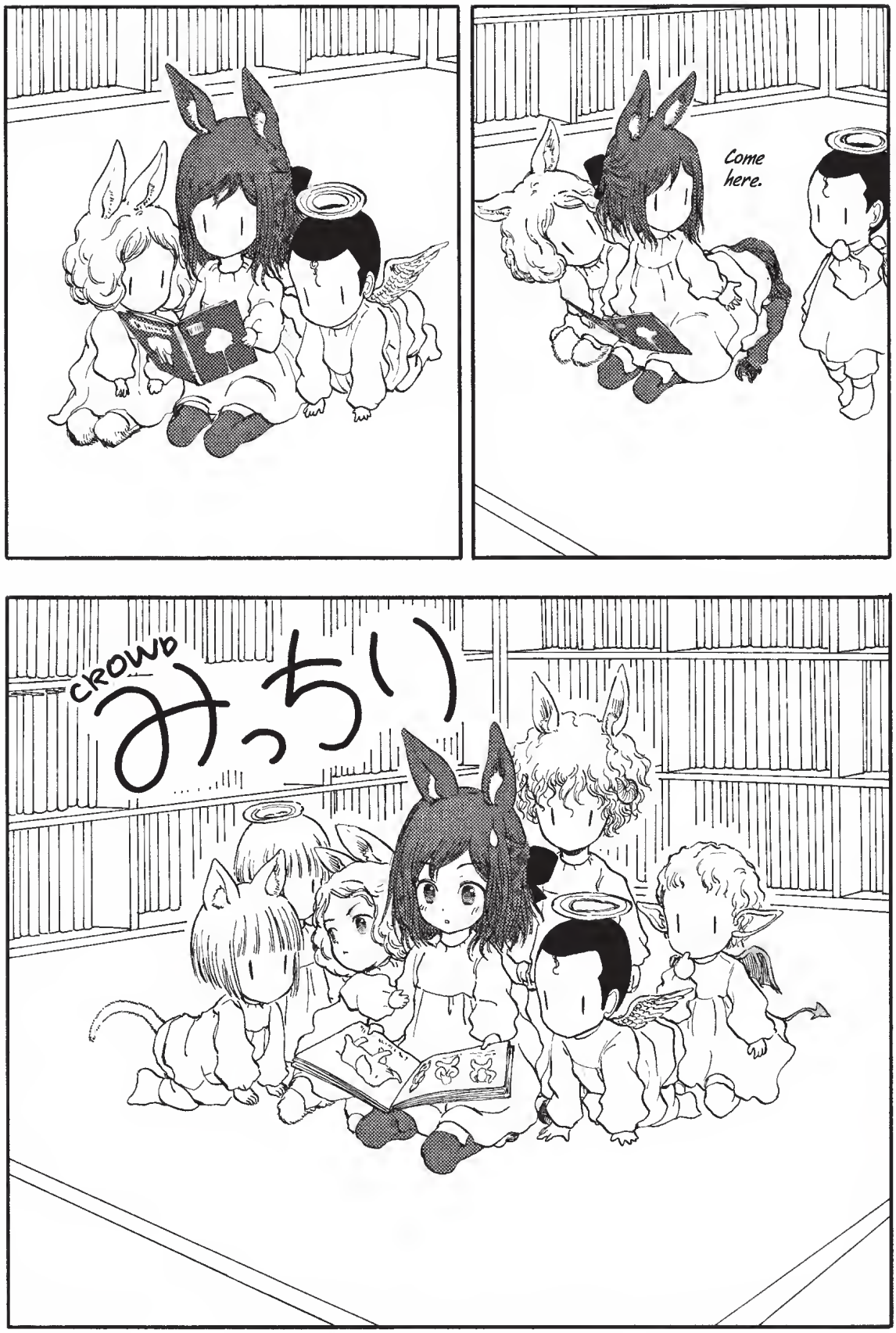

Are you okay?


BAP
PLOP
Hic
Sniff
Uwaaah


Waaaah
Waaah
Uwaaah
Hmm?


Junn's Blooming Flower
A kiss just for you.
SMOOCH


SMOOCH


Come here.
CROWD
みっちり

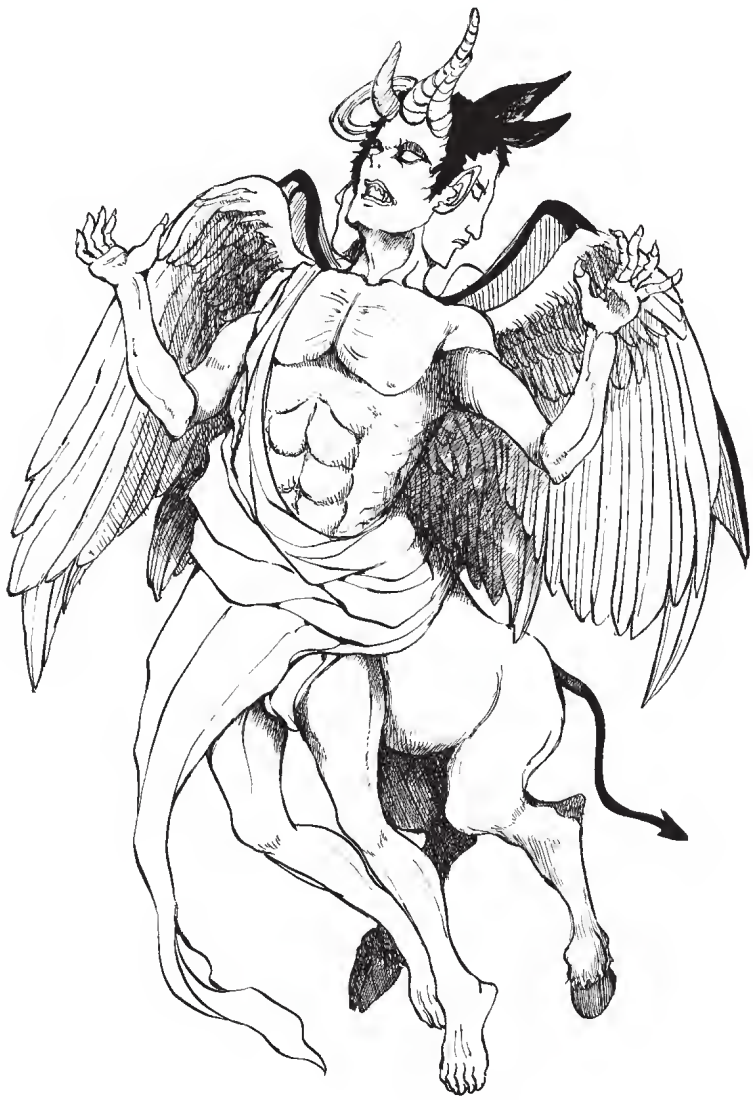
NUZZLE
NUZZLE
HER DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION HAVE BECOME MORE PASSIONATE RECENTLY.
MAYBE SHE'S STRESSED OUT? HIMENO'S ALWAYS BEEN VERY AFFECTIONATE.

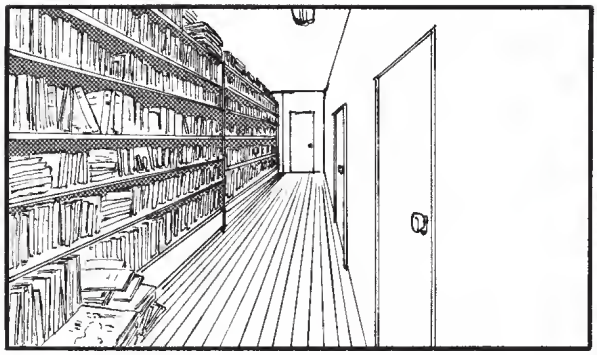
A CentaUr's Life

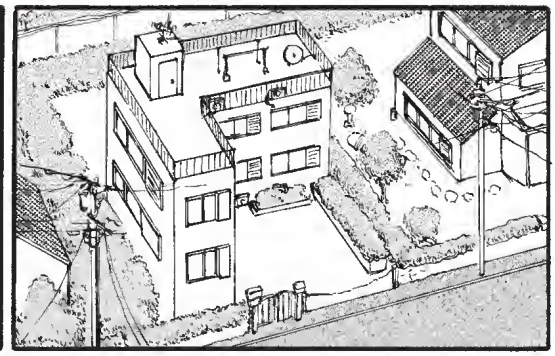
SUPERNATURAL BEINGS: DEMONS

AMONG SUPERNATURAL BEINGS, DEMONS PRESENT THE MOST DANGER TO HUMANS, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO MORALITY AND TEMPTATION. THEY CAN APPEAR AS ANY MODERN RACE AND ARE ALMOST INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM THE MASSES, BUT THEY RETAIN SOME OF THE DANGEROUS PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS OF THE ANIMAL KINGDOM, SUCH AS SHARP FANGS OR A BARBED TAIL. DEMONS ARE MORE LIMITED IN THEIR APPEARANCE THAN GODS, PROBABLY BECAUSE THEIR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE IS LIMITED TO THE MODERN HUMAN RACES.

THE DEMONIC CLASS OF SUPERNATURAL BEINGS DOES NOT INCLUDE MONSTERS AND SPIRITS. THOUGH MONSTERS AND SPIRITS CAN SOMETIMES CAUSE HARM TO HUMANS, THIS IS USUALLY INCIDENTAL RATHER THAN MALICIOUS. DEMONS ARE PURE FORCES OF EVIL AND ARE NOT COMMONLY DEPICTED OUTSIDE OF MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS WHERE THE GOD REPRESENTS A PURE FORCE OF GOOD. WHEN A LOCAL RELIGION IS ABSORBED BY A FOREIGN RELIGION, THE LOCAL GODS ARE OFTEN CONVERTED TO DEMONS BY THE FOREIGN FAITH.



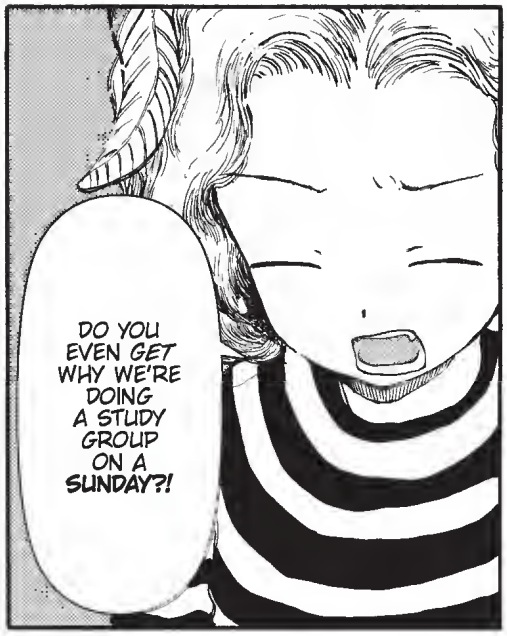




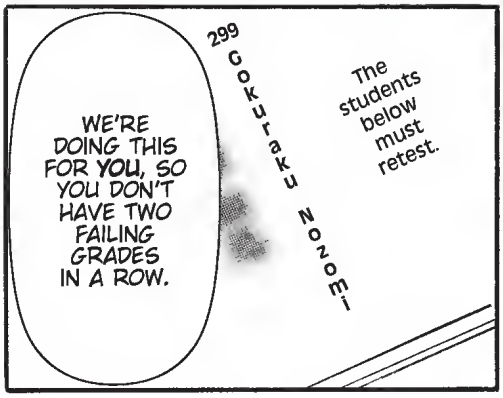
CHAPTER 11

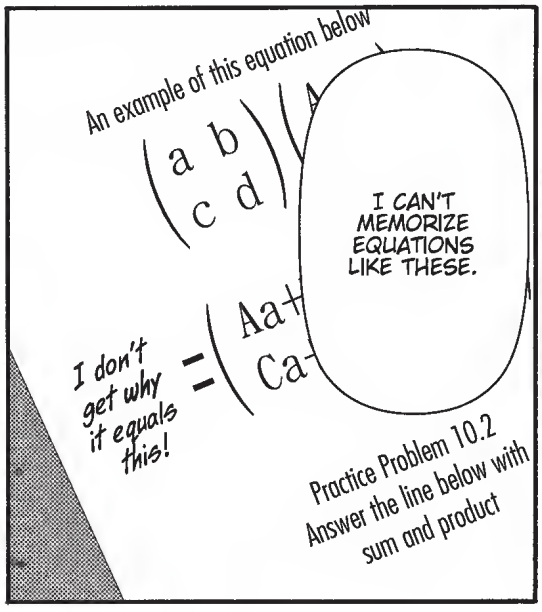
June's Blooming Flower
That part is like this.
Like I said, this part...
Um.... Hmm.

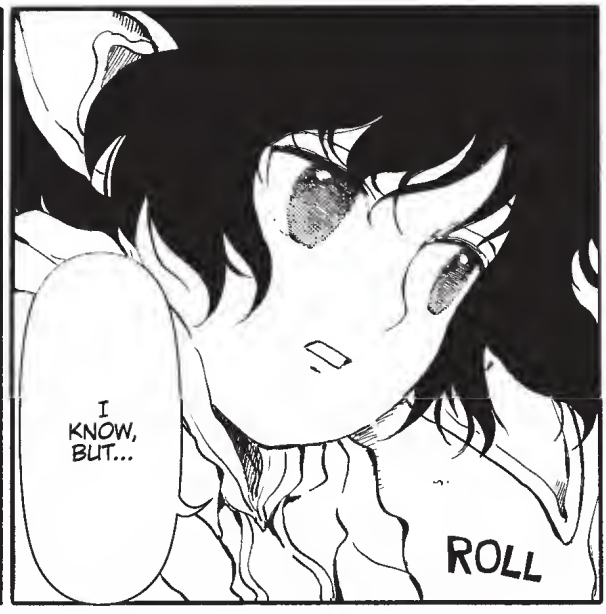
FWUMP
ARGH! I DON'T GET IT!
PUT DOWN THAT MANGA!
NOZOMI-CHAN! WE'VE ONLY BEEN AT THIS FOR THIRTY MINUTES!
RUMMAGE RUMMAGE
Upsy-Daisy

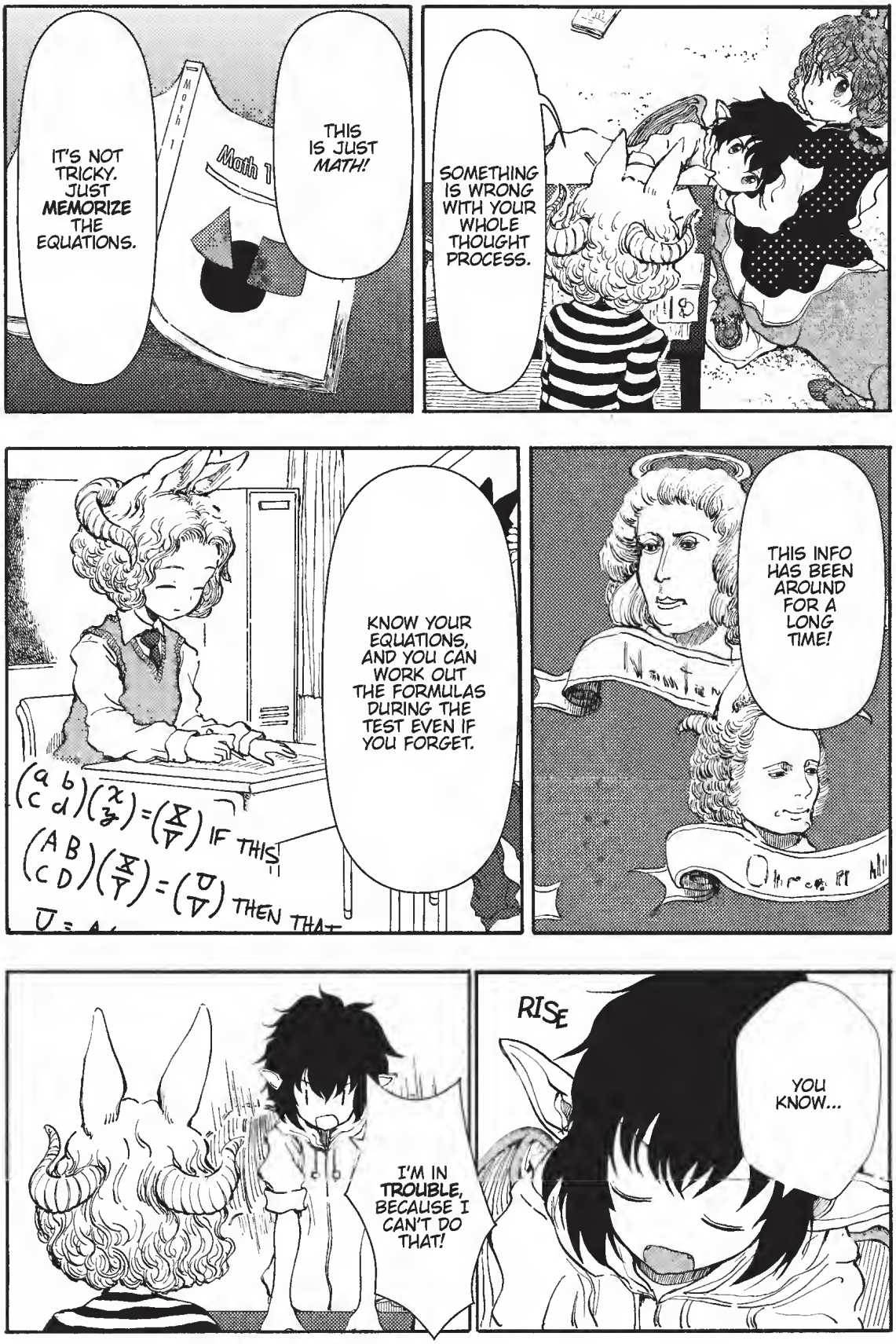

DO YOU EVEN GET WHY WE'RE DOING A STUDY GROUP ON A SUNDAY?!

YOU... YOU...!


WE'RE DOING THIS FOR YOU, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TWO FAILING GRADES IN A ROW.
299
Gokuraku Nozomi
The students below must retest.

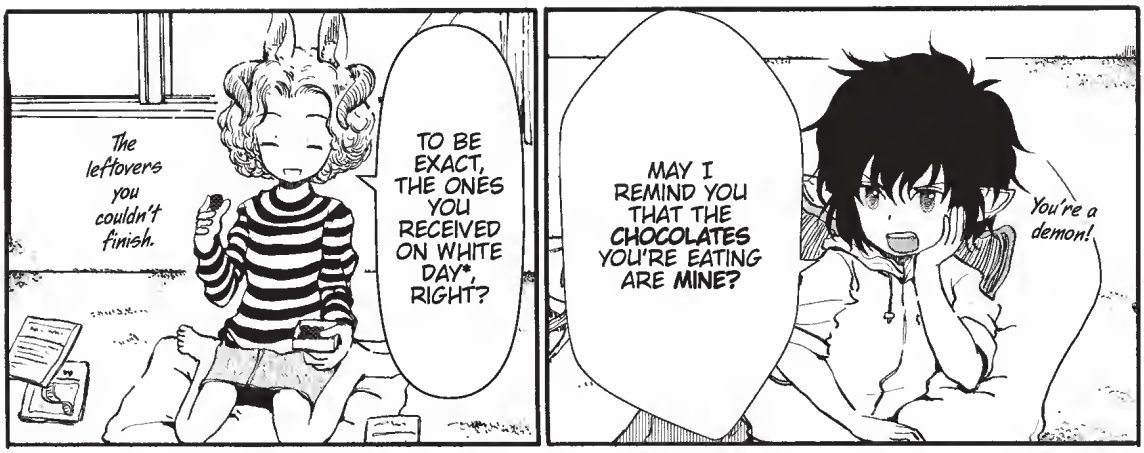

An example of this equation below
I CAN'T MEMORIZE EQUATIONS LIKE THESE.
I don't get why it equals this!
Practice Problem 10.2
Answer the line below with sum and product


I KNOW, BUT...
ROLL

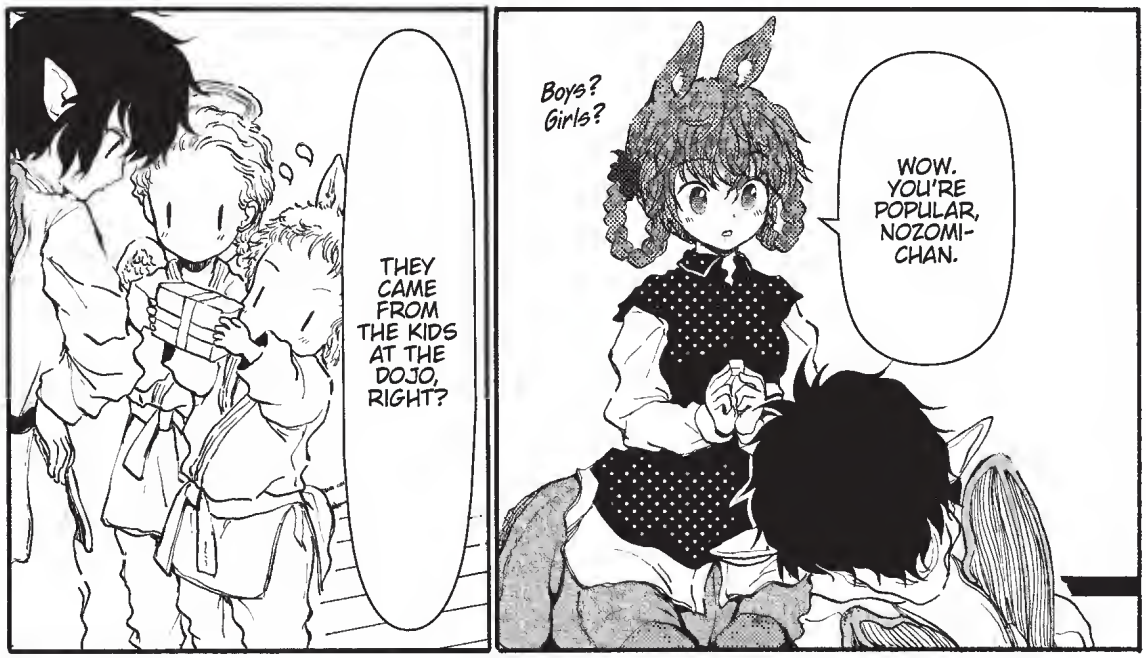

IT'S NOT TRICKY. JUST MEMORIZE THE EQUATIONS.
THIS IS JUST MATH!
SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH YOUR WHOLE THOUGHT PROCESS.
KNOW YOUR EQUATIONS, AND YOU CAN WORK OUT THE FORMULAS DURING THE TEST EVEN IF YOU FORGET.
IF THIS
THEN THAT
THIS INFO HAS BEEN AROUND FOR A LONG TIME!
I'M IN TROUBLE, BECAUSE I CAN'T DO THAT!
RISE
YOU KNOW...

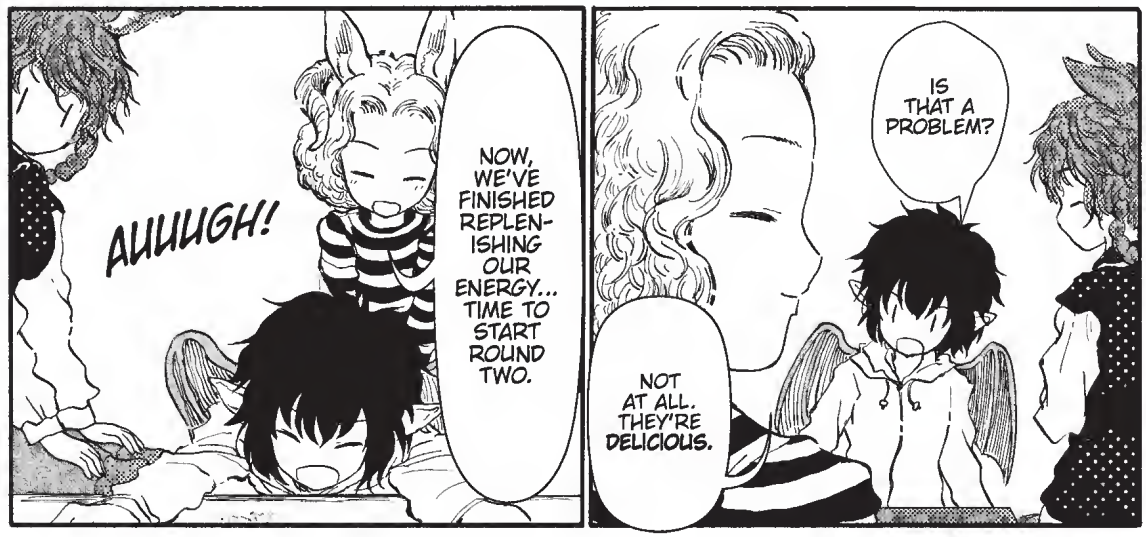
HIME-CHAN! PUT HER IN A NELSON SO SHE CAN'T GET AWAY!
AND THAT'S *WHY* WE'RE HELPING YOU!
SMACK
NO!
That doesn't matter!
WAS THE NELSON LIKE THIS?
WE'RE GOING TO CONQUER MATH, ENGLISH, SCIENCE, PHYSICS, *AND* CLASSICAL JAPANESE!

15:00
NOZOMI-CHAN, HERE. SAY, "AAAH!"
Aaah.
So sweet...
Is it good?
BUT AT THIS PACE, WE WON'T MAKE THE NEXT TEST.
THE BRAIN USES A LOT OF FUEL.
You have to replenish your energy.


The leftovers you couldn't finish.
TO BE EXACT, THE ONES YOU RECEIVED ON WHITE DAY*, RIGHT?
MAY I REMIND YOU THAT THE CHOCOLATES YOU'RE EATING ARE MINE?
You're a demon!

*In Japan, girls give guys chocolates on Valentine's Day, and a month later, the favor is returned on White Day (March 14).

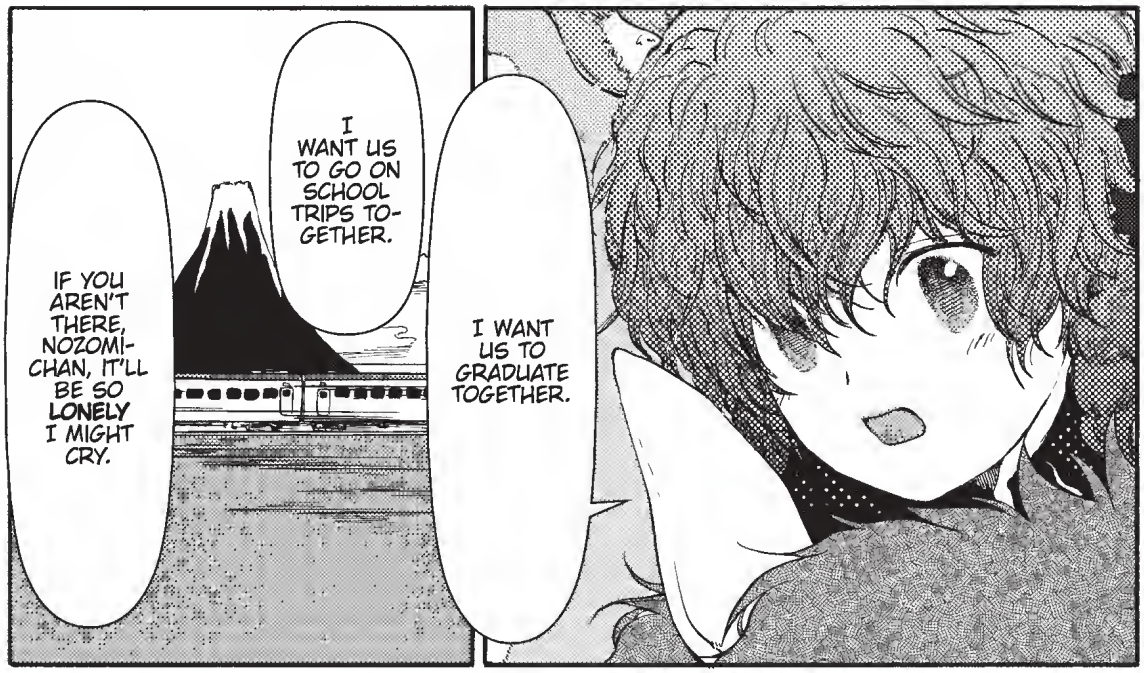




RUB RUB
YOU KNOW... THAT'S ENOUGH.
Science 1
Physics & Chemistry
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GONNA BE A PROFESSOR OR SOME-THING. THIS MUCH MATH IS OVERKILL.
MATH IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU THINK.
BAH! THERE'S LOTS OF STUFF MORE IMPORTANT THAN LEARN-ING ALL OF THIS.
LIKE WHAT? LYING THERE AND USING HIME'S KNEES AS A PILLOW?
It's not her knees.
DON'T SULK.
THEY SAY THAT STUDYING FOR THE SAKE OF STUDYING IS POINTLESS.
YOUR STUDIES WON'T GET YOU ANYWHERE UNLESS YOU LEARN TO APPLY THEM IN YOUR LIFE.

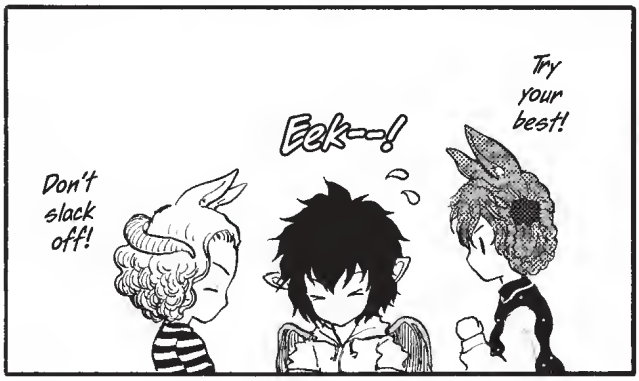
HONESTLY, I'M SKEPTICAL TOO.
So strict.
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT MY FATHER ALWAYS TELLS ME.
Potential Energy mgh
(g: gravity coefficient)
m
h
...THAN NEED IT AND NOT KNOW IT?
BUT WOULDN'T YOU RATHER KNOW SOMETHING AND NOT NEED IT...
Guess you'll have to study!
AW, POOR NOZOMI-CHAN... DISQUALIFIED BY YOUR FOUL MOUTH.
HE SAYS IT'S FINE AS LONG AS YOU'RE A GOOD TALKER WITH A PRETTY FACE.
MY OLD MAN...
HUH? ISN'T YOUR FATHER A KARATE INSTRUCTOR?

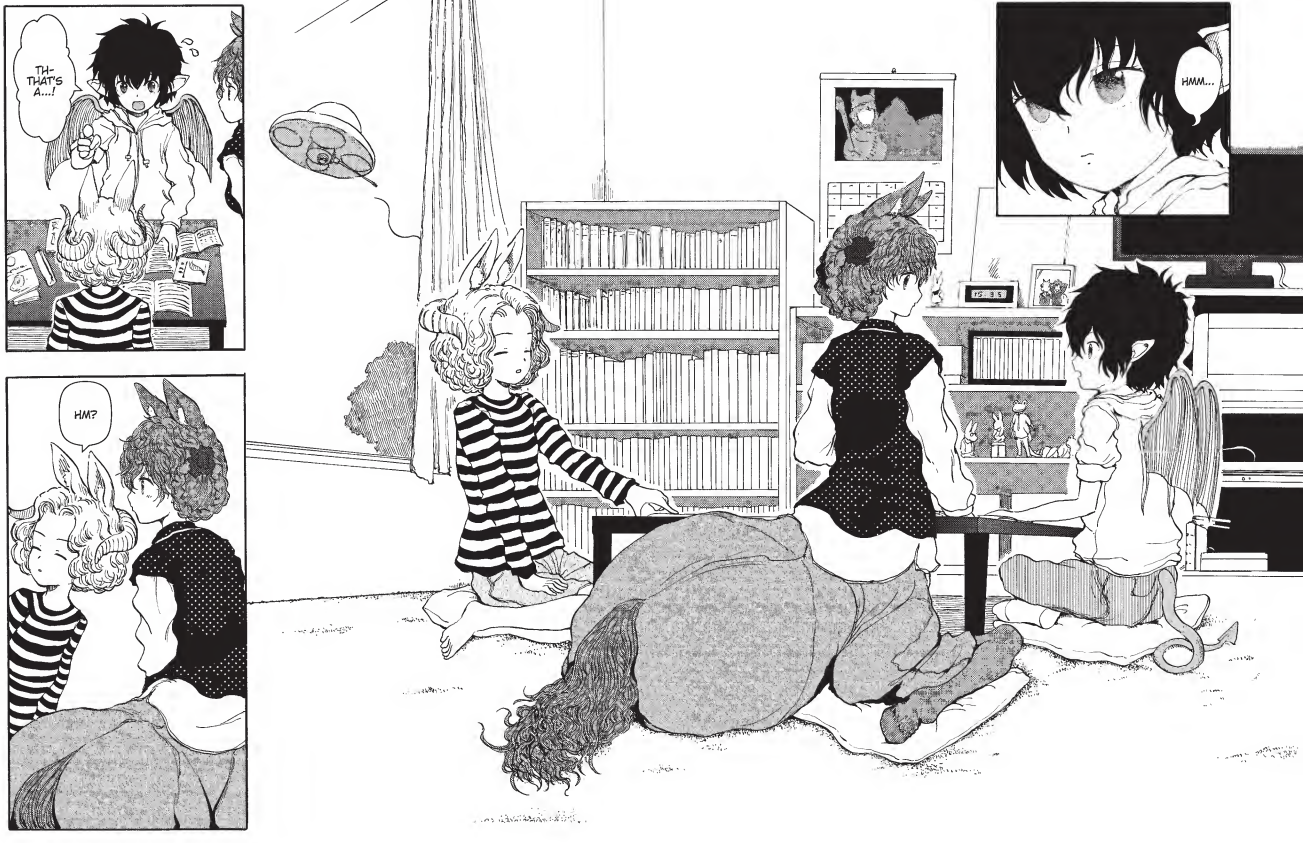
I GUESS THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.
SHE'S SULKING AGAIN.
FWIP
1st Year, Class 1
2nd Year, Class 3
YOU'LL BE HELD BACK A YEAR IF YOU GET TOO MANY FAILING GRADES.
UM, NOZOMI-CHAN.


I WANT US TO GO ON SCHOOL TRIPS TO-GETHER.
IF YOU AREN'T THERE, NOZOMI-CHAN, IT'LL BE SO LONELY I MIGHT CRY.
I WANT US TO GRADUATE TOGETHER.

I GUESS I'LL DO IT FOR YOU.
AND WE ARE DOING THIS FOR YOU.

IF YOU'RE GONNA PUT IT LIKE THAT...
FWUP


Try your best!
Eek--!
Don't slack off!


TH-THAT'S A...!
HM?
HMM...

I... I JUST SAW A UFO!
WHAT...?
PWISH
PWOOSH
I'M SERIOUS!
YOU... ARE SO...
AND AFTER THAT, LET'S CONCENTRATE AGAIN.
HERE, DRINK THIS.

THAT'S NOT THE POINT...
BUT I'M SURE THAT ALIENS EXIST!
WELL... I DIDN'T SEE ANY-THING.
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME EITHER, HIME?
It's Monday morning...
HMM, NOZOMI-CHAN HAS LOOKED PRETTY EXHAUSTED ALL WEEK.
Hey.
Good morning.
Morning!
THE UFO.
BUT MORE IMPOR-TANTLY... DID YOU SEE IT YESTER-DAY?
SEE WHAT?

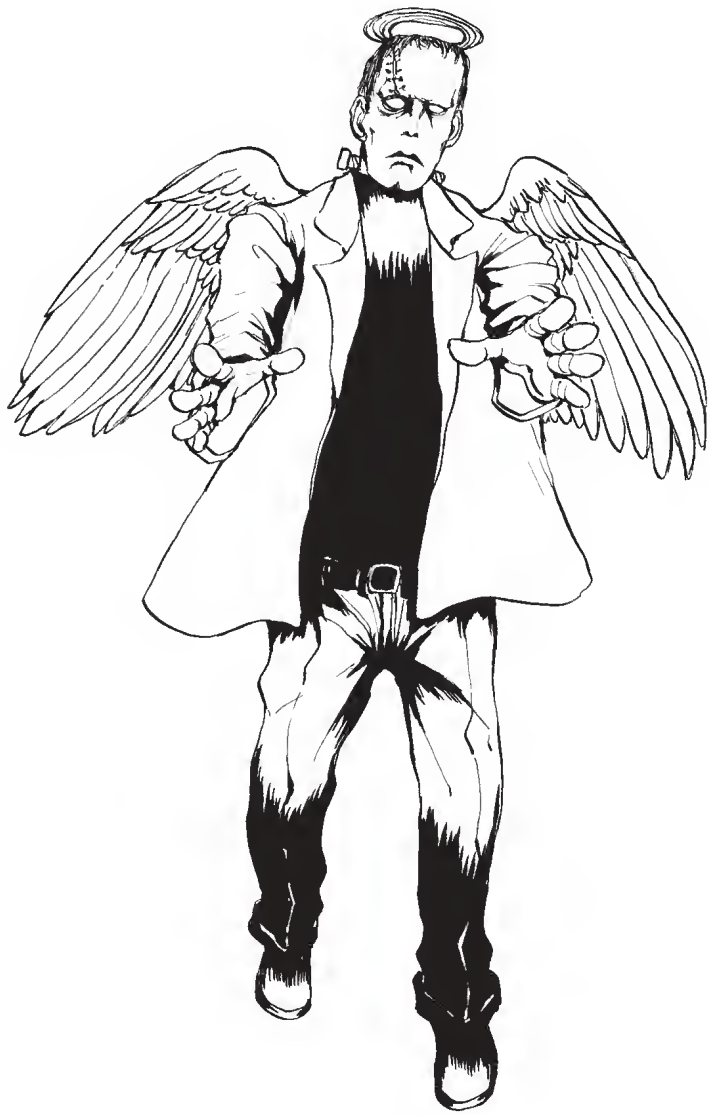
SEE~?! I TOLD YOU!
I saw it too.
Really?
Completely serious.
Seriously?
OKAY. I'M SORRY.
Boo!
WHAT? WE'RE GOING TO BE INVADED?!
SO LAID BACK, EVEN IN THE FACE OF AN ALIEN INVASION.
IS A TEST, NOT A UFO.
BUT THE IMPORTANT THING FOR YOU RIGHT NOW, NOZOMI-CHAN...

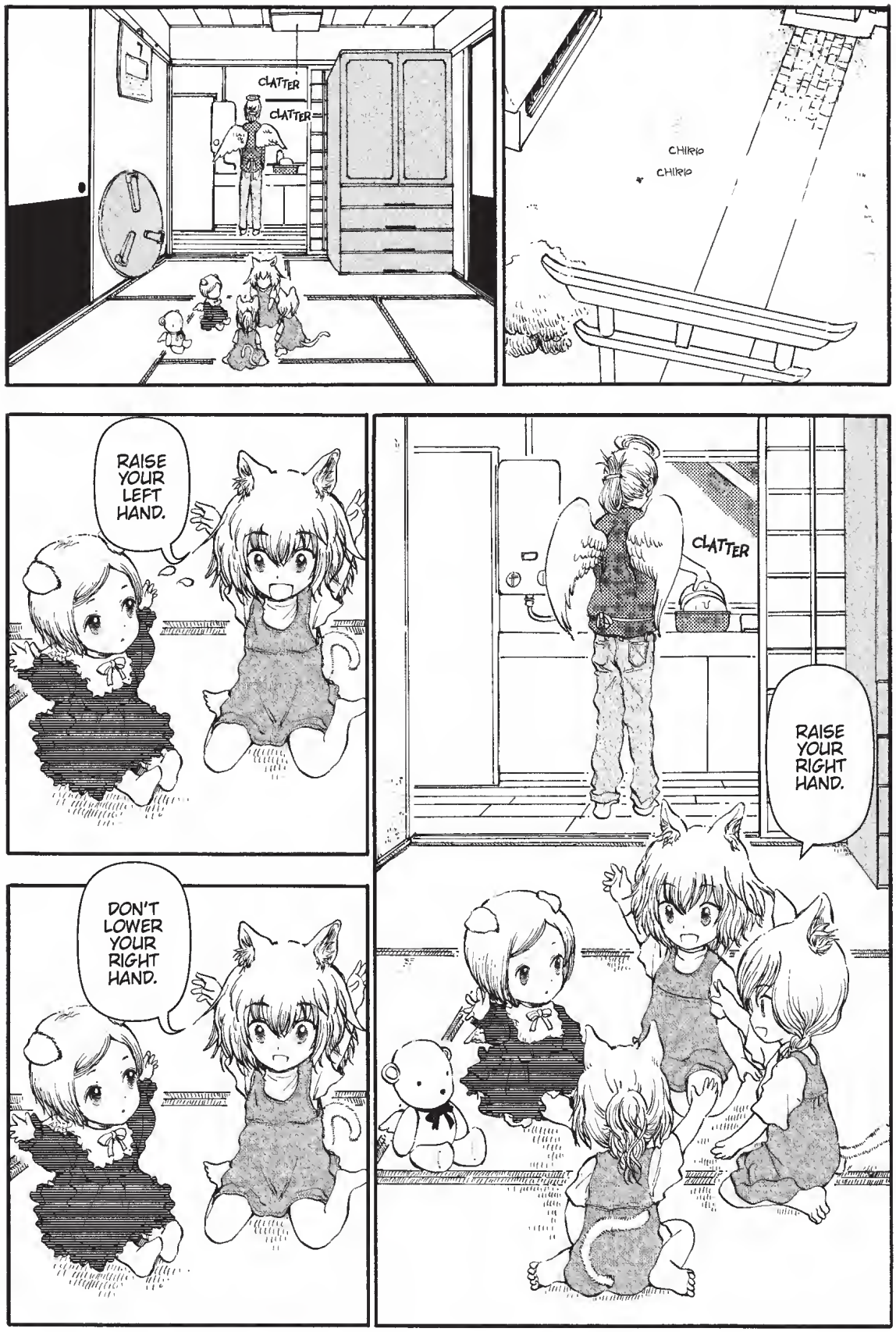
A CentaUr's Life

SUPERNATURAL BEINGS: FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER

ALL SUPERNATURAL CREATURES ARE CREATIONS OF HUMAN IMAGINATION, AND THE STORY OF FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER AND ITS CREATOR ARE KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. *FRANKENSTEIN* THE NOVEL INSPIRED COUNTLESS MOVIES AND COMICS. IT IS ONE OF THE TRUE ICONS OF HORROR.

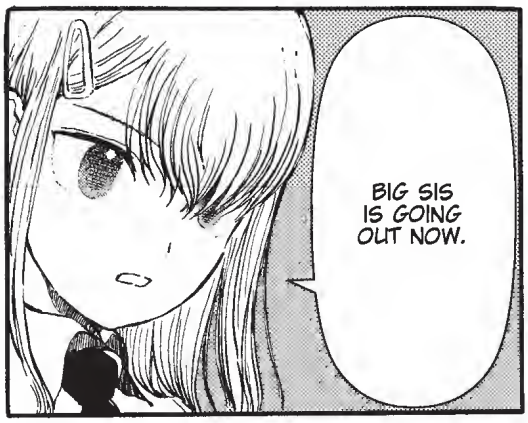
THE ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION BY AUTHOR MARY SHELLEY, HOWEVER, WAS NOT OF A GIANT WINGED MAN WITH A FLAT HEAD AND BOLTS ON THE SIDES OF HIS NECK. THAT VERSION OF THE MONSTER STEMS FROM THE MAKE-UP THAT ACTOR BORIS KARLOFF WORE IN THE ORIGINAL *FRANKENSTEIN* FILM. PEOPLE COMMONLY (AND MISTAKENLY!) REFER TO THE MONSTER AS "FRANKENSTEIN," BUT IN THE STORY, THAT NAME ACTUALLY BELONGS TO THE DOCTOR WHO CREATED THE MONSTER. THE MONSTER DOES NOT HAVE ITS OWN NAME.

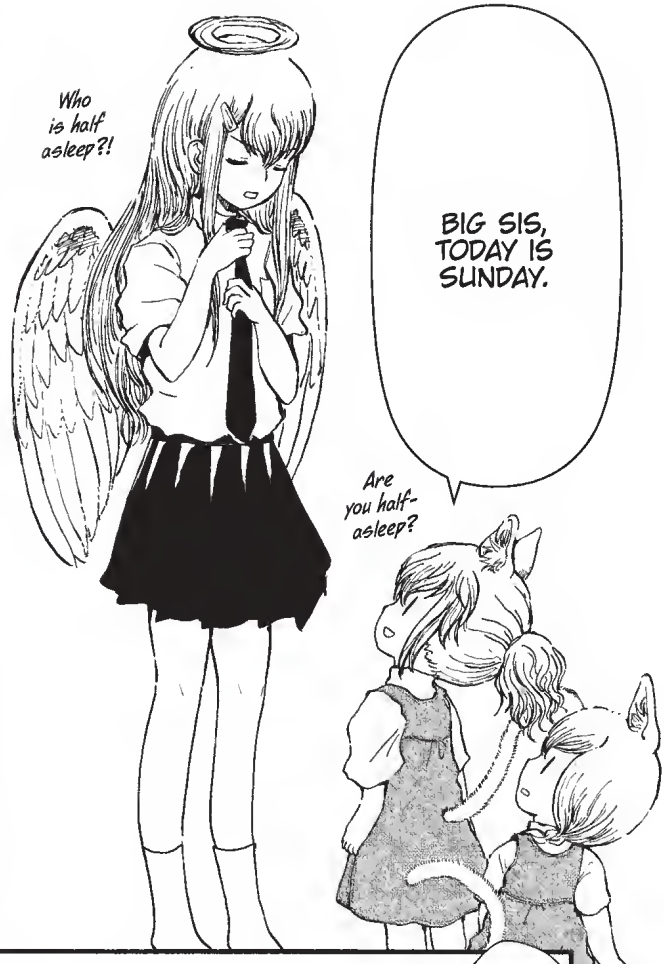


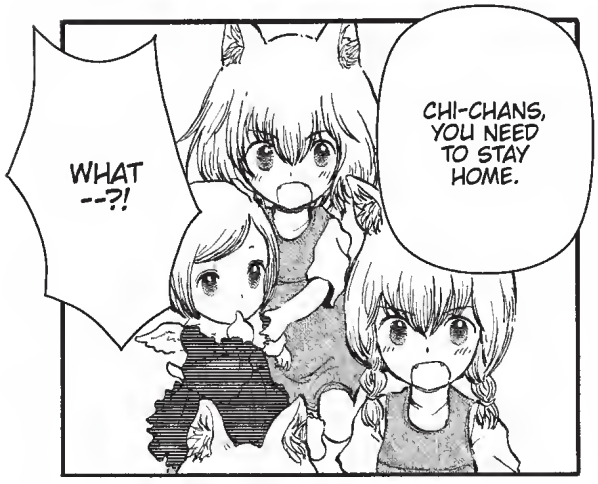

CLATTER
CLATTER
CHIRP
CHIRP
RAISE YOUR LEFT HAND.
CLATTER
RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND.
DON'T LOWER YOUR RIGHT HAND.

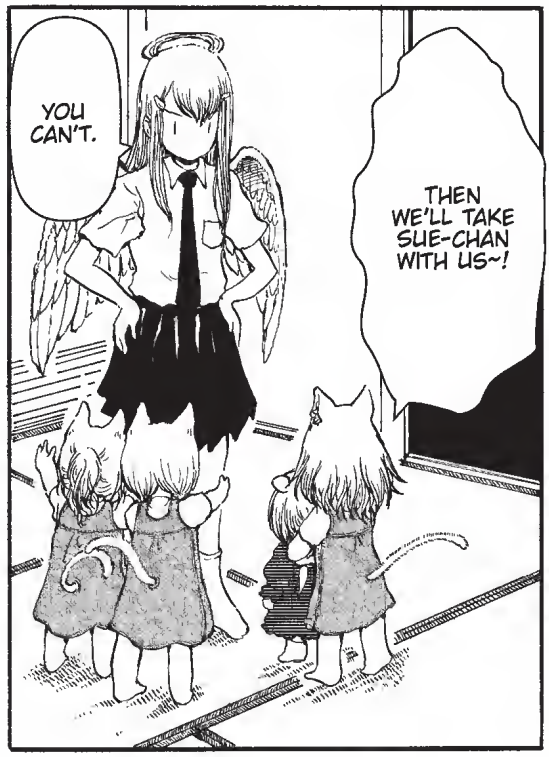
CHAPTER 12

Your tail is so small!
IS YOUR TAIL UP, SUE-CHAN~?
CHNLN
CHNLN
HUH?
HEY, CHI-CHANS.

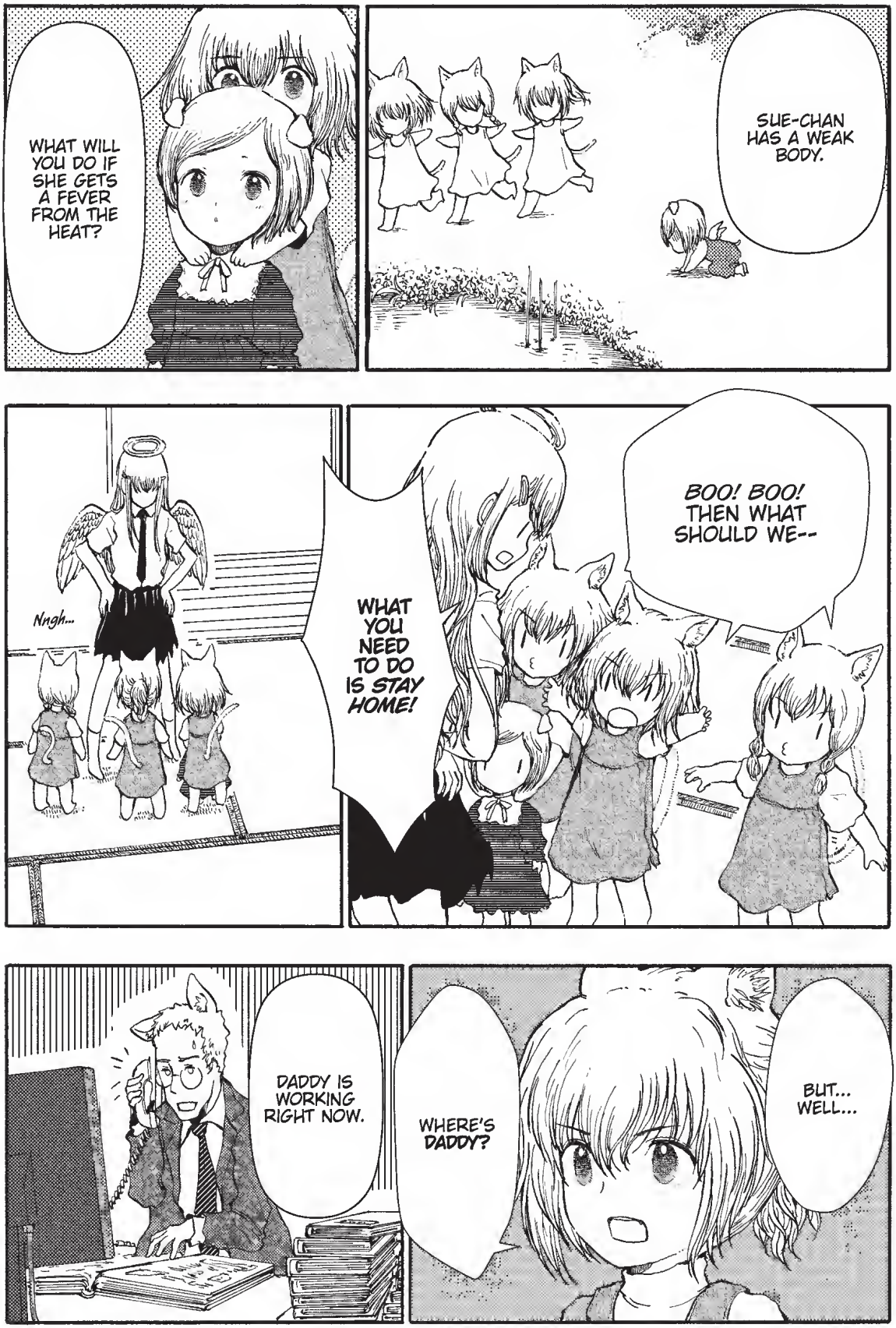

BIG SIS IS GOING OUT NOW.


Who is half asleep?!
BIG SIS, TODAY IS SUNDAY.
Are you half-asleep?

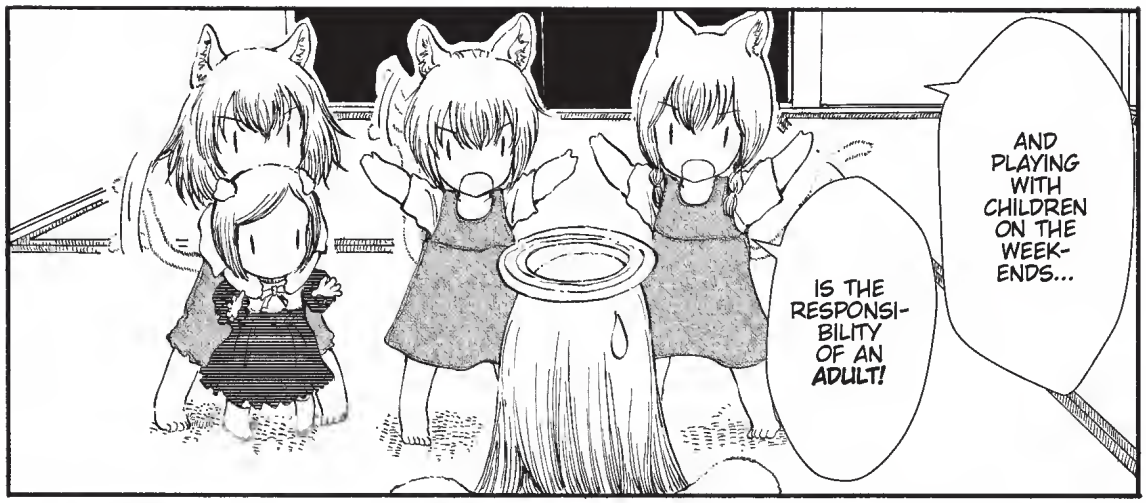

CHI-CHANS, YOU NEED TO STAY HOME.
WHAT --?!


YOU CAN'T.
THEN WE'LL TAKE SUE-CHAN WITH US~!

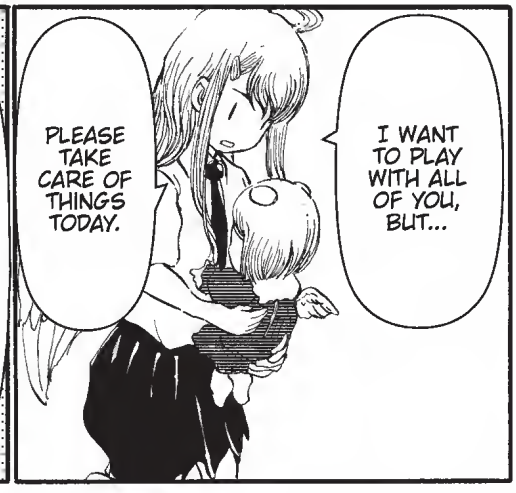
CHI-CHANS ALL PROMISED TO PLAY OUTSIDE WITH SOMEONE.
WE CAN'T LEAVE SUE-CHAN ALONE.

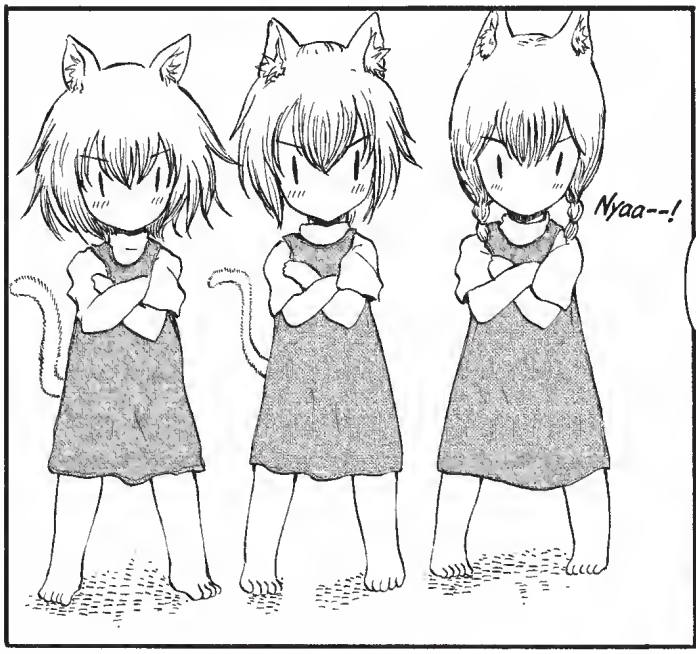

WHAT WILL YOU DO IF SHE GETS A FEVER FROM THE HEAT?
SUE-CHAN HAS A WEAK BODY.
Nngh...
WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IS STAY HOME!
BOO! BOO! THEN WHAT SHOULD WE--
DADDY IS WORKING RIGHT NOW.
WHERE'S DADDY?
BUT... WELL...

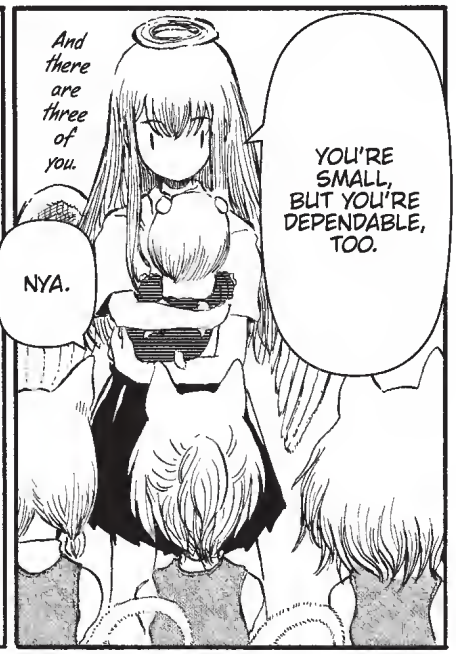
You shouldn't go into Daddy's room!
But-!
HE'S ALWAYS OUT, BUT NEVER GETS ANYTHING DONE.
DADDY'S JOB IS TO MAKE DRAWINGS, RIGHT?
THE WORLD DOESN'T UNDERSTAND EITHER... BUT THAT'S HOW IT IS.
WE DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT LOGIC.
THE PICTURES IN HIS ROOM ARE HIS PASSION. RIGHT NOW, HE'S JUST DOING HIS JOB.
I hope this will become a setting for an anime.
THAT MONEY BELONGS TO THE GODS.
THERE'S MONEY IN THE DONATION BOX.

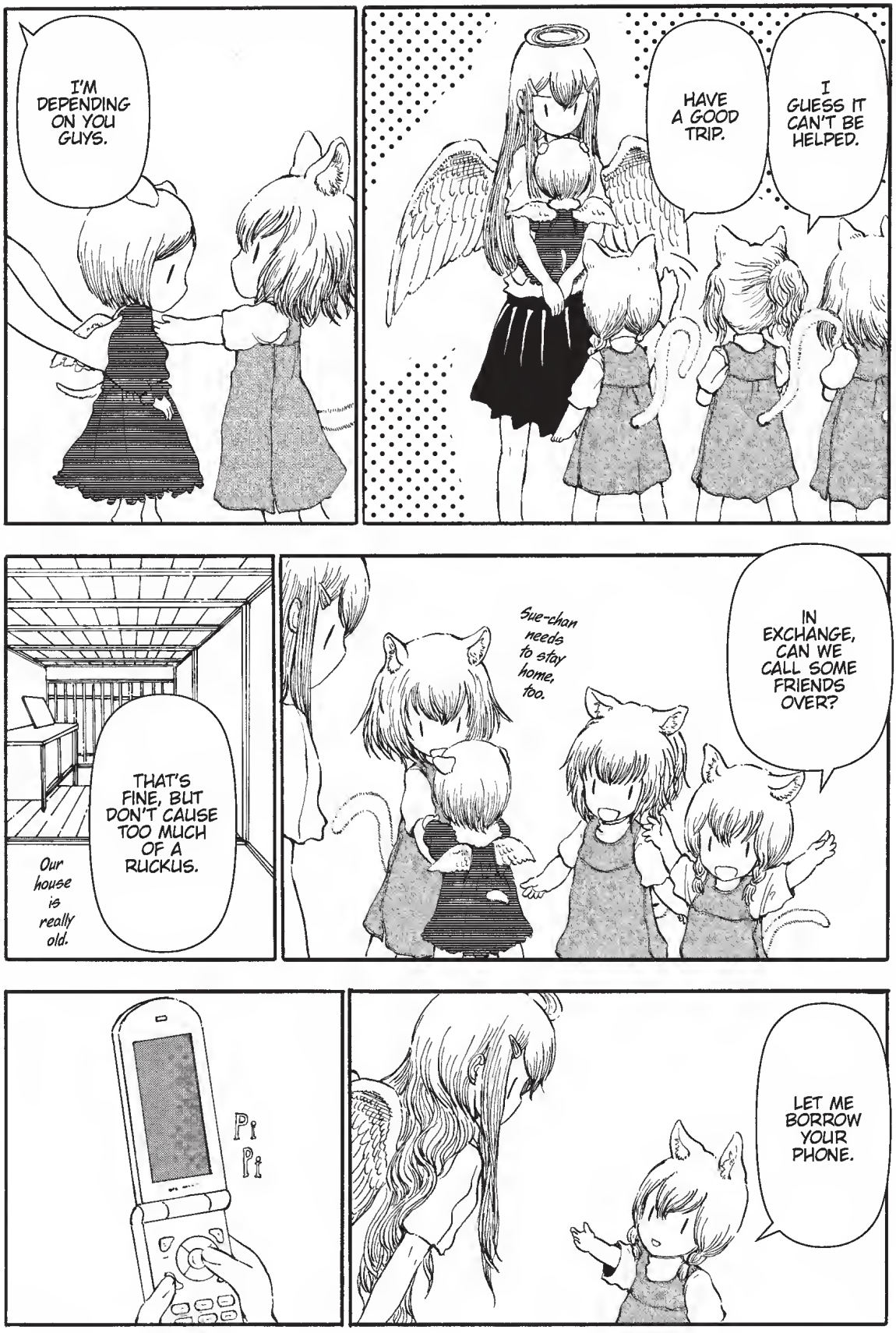

AND PLAYING WITH CHILDREN ON THE WEEK-ENDS...
IS THE RESPONSI-BILITY OF AN ADULT!

IT'S NOT GOOD FOR LITTLE KIDS TO STAY HOME ALONE.
ALSO, CHI-CHANS ARE ALL KINDER-GARTENERS.

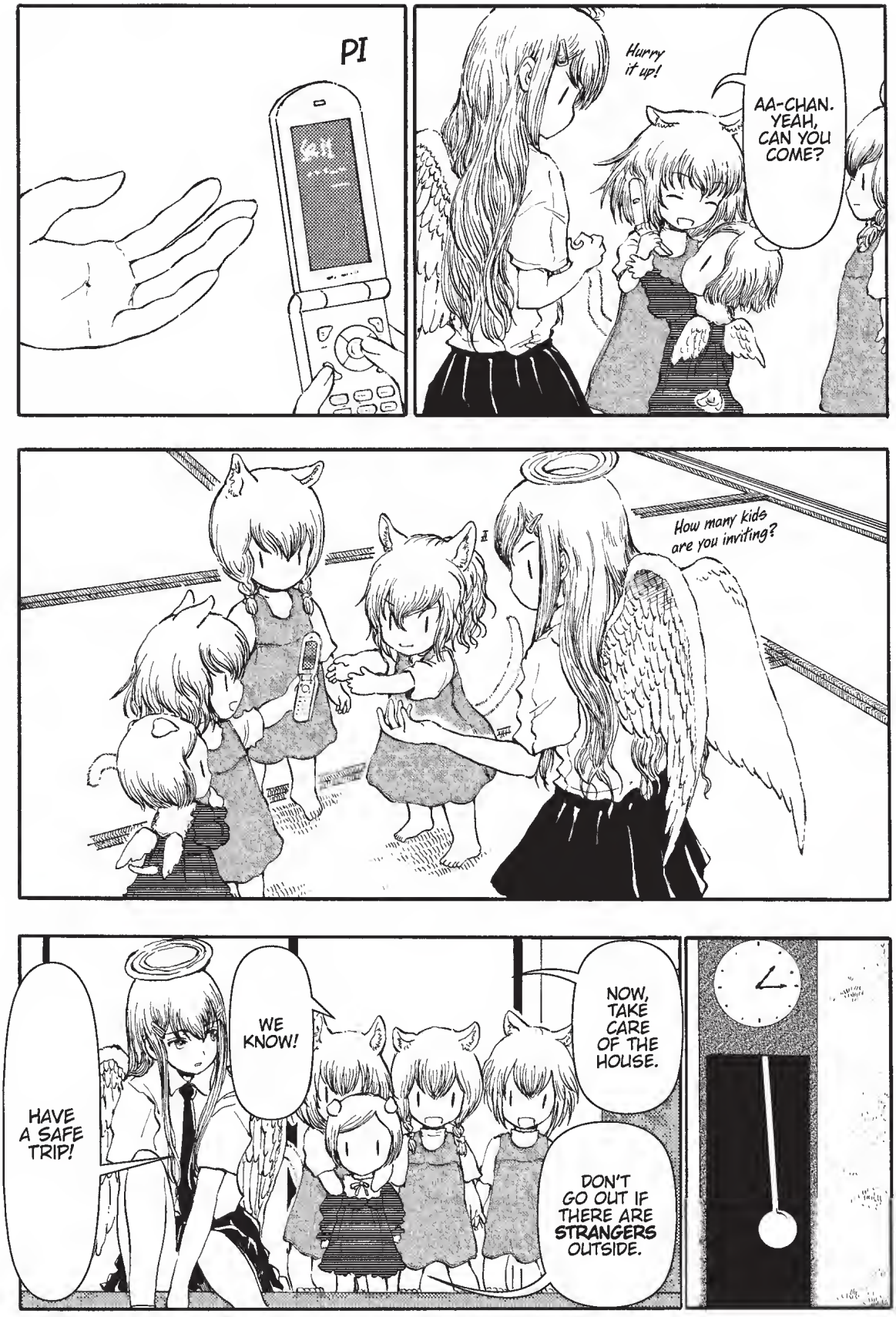

I WANT TO PLAY WITH ALL OF YOU, BUT...
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THINGS TODAY.

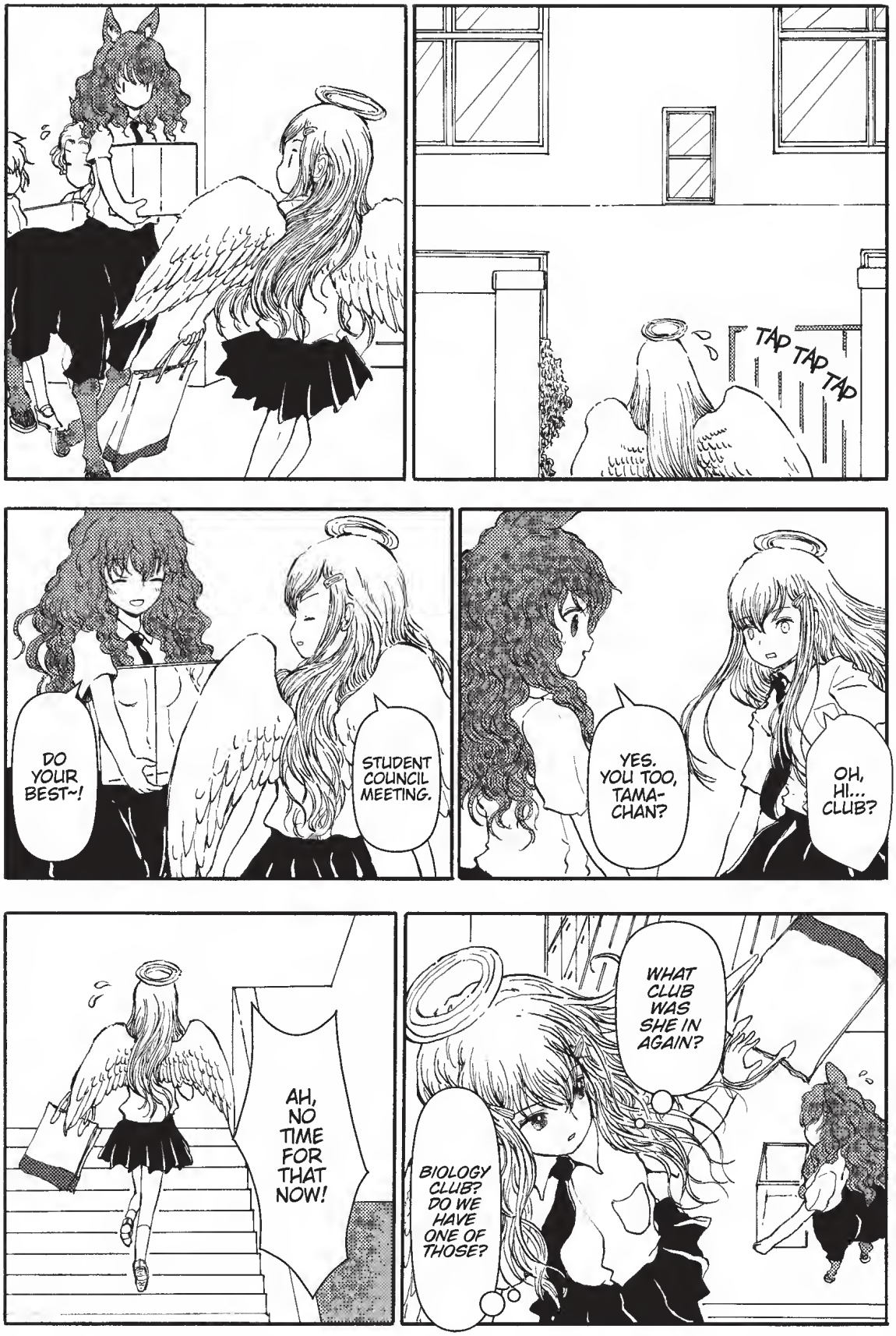

Nyaa--!


And there are three of you.
YOU'RE SMALL, BUT YOU'RE DEPENDABLE, TOO.
NYA.


I'M DEPENDING ON YOU GUYS.
I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
HAVE A GOOD TRIP.
THAT'S FINE, BUT DON'T CAUSE TOO MUCH OF A RUCKUS.
Our house is really old.
Sue-chan needs to stay home, too.
IN EXCHANGE, CAN WE CALL SOME FRIENDS OVER?
Pi Pi
LET ME BORROW YOUR PHONE.

RING
RING
RING
HI, THIS IS MITAMA.
PLEASE.
OH, NACCHAN! YES, IT'S CHIGUSA. MY BIG SIS WANTS ME TO WATCH THE HOUSE.
YEAH. CAN YOU COME OVER? REALLY?! THEN COME ON BY!
The time...
Pi
Here.

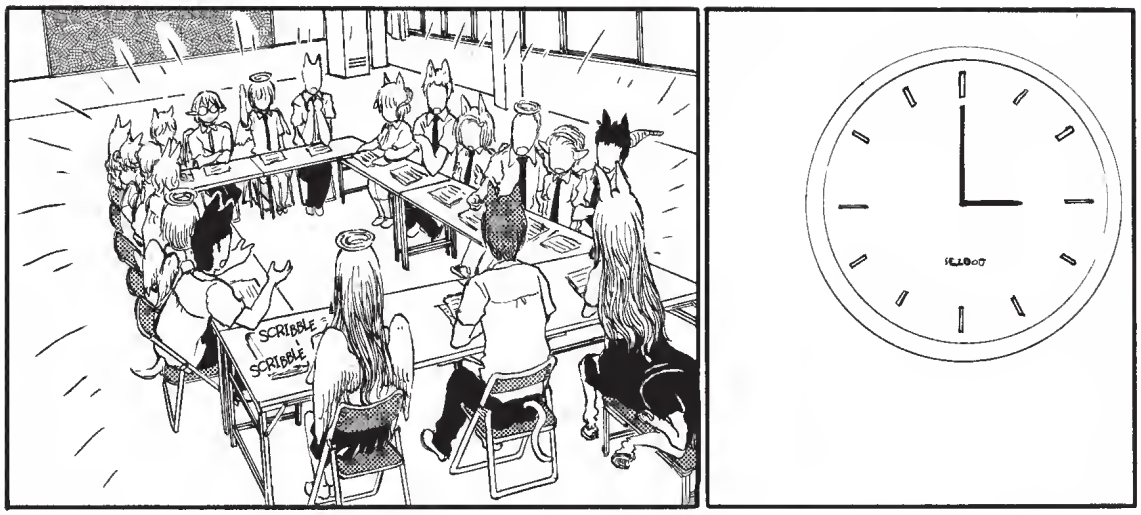

PI
Hurry it up!
AA-CHAN. YEAH, CAN YOU COME?
How many kids are you inviting?
NOW, TAKE CARE OF THE HOUSE.
DON'T GO OUT IF THERE ARE STRANGERS OUTSIDE.
WE KNOW!
HAVE A SAFE TRIP!

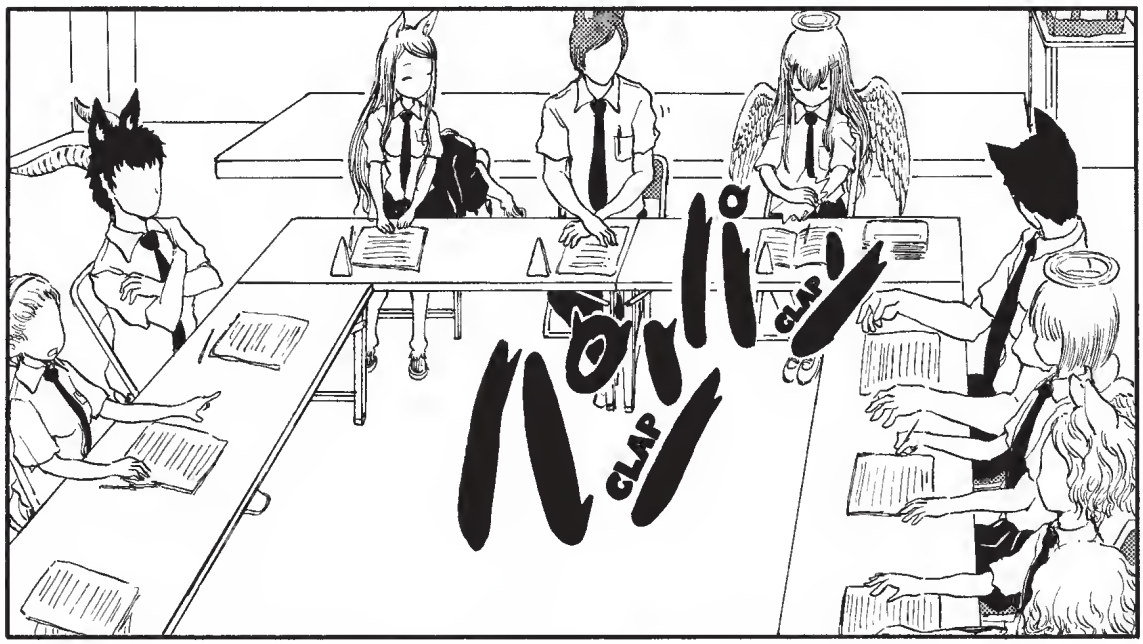

TAP TAP TAP
OH, HI... CLUB?
YES. YOU TOO, TAMA-CHAN?
STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING.
DO YOUR BEST~!
WHAT CLUB WAS SHE IN AGAIN?
BIOLOGY CLUB? DO WE HAVE ONE OF THOSE?
AH, NO TIME FOR THAT NOW!

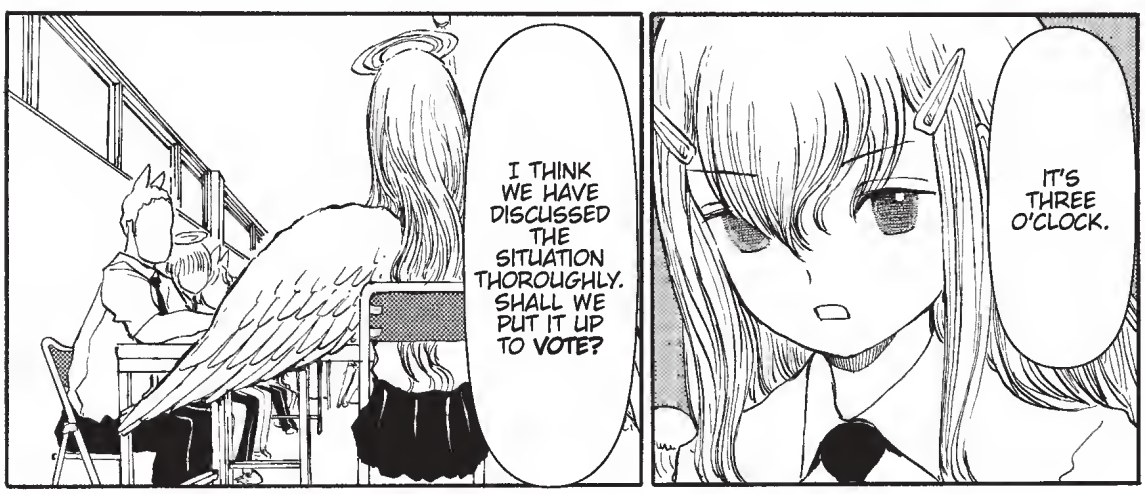
Rock, Paper, Scissors!
I found you!
SCATTER
1.
2.
3.

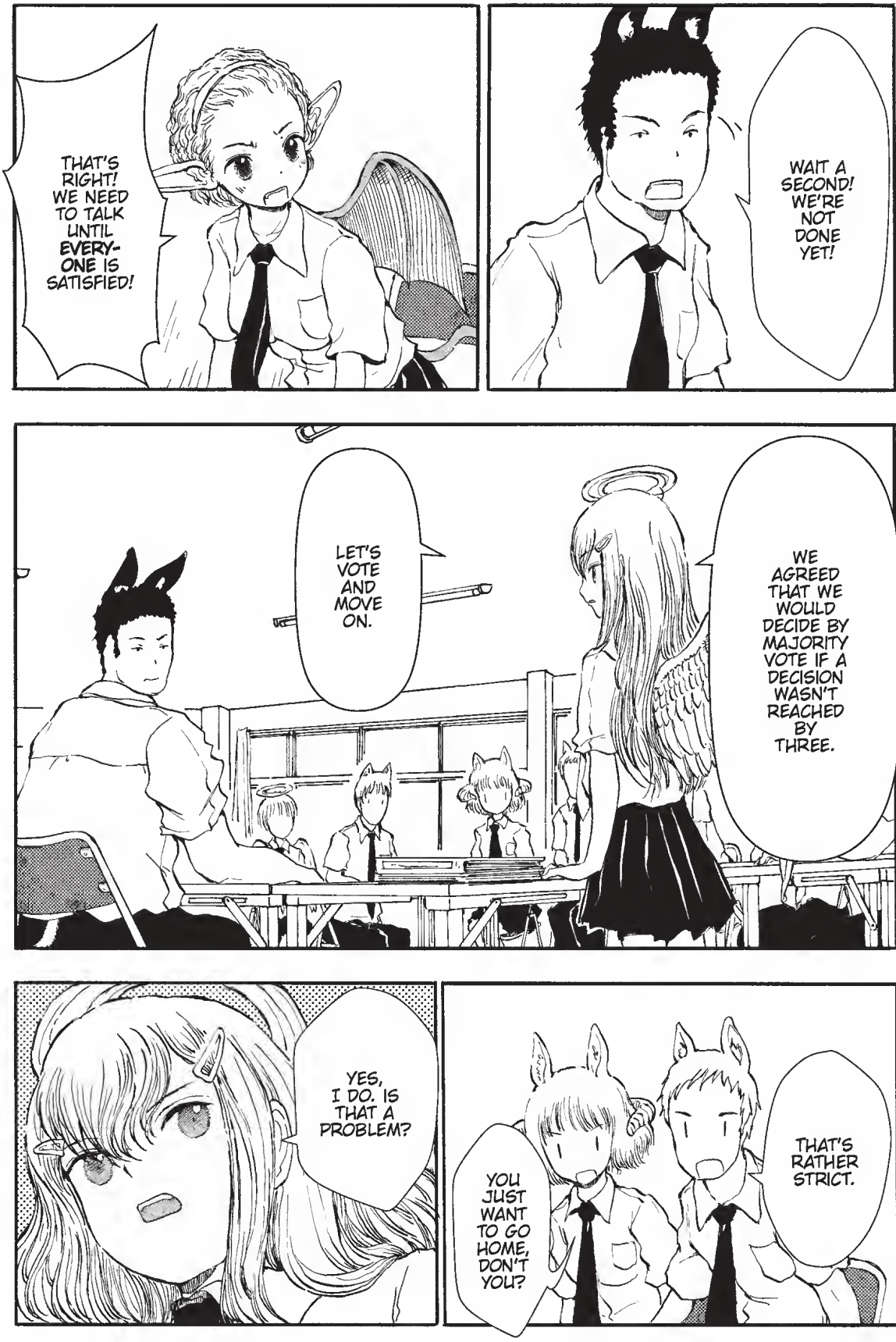
Ha ha!
Wait! Wait-!
Eee! Eee!
SUE-CHAN, ARE YOU OKAY?
HUFF HUFF
CHI-CHAN!

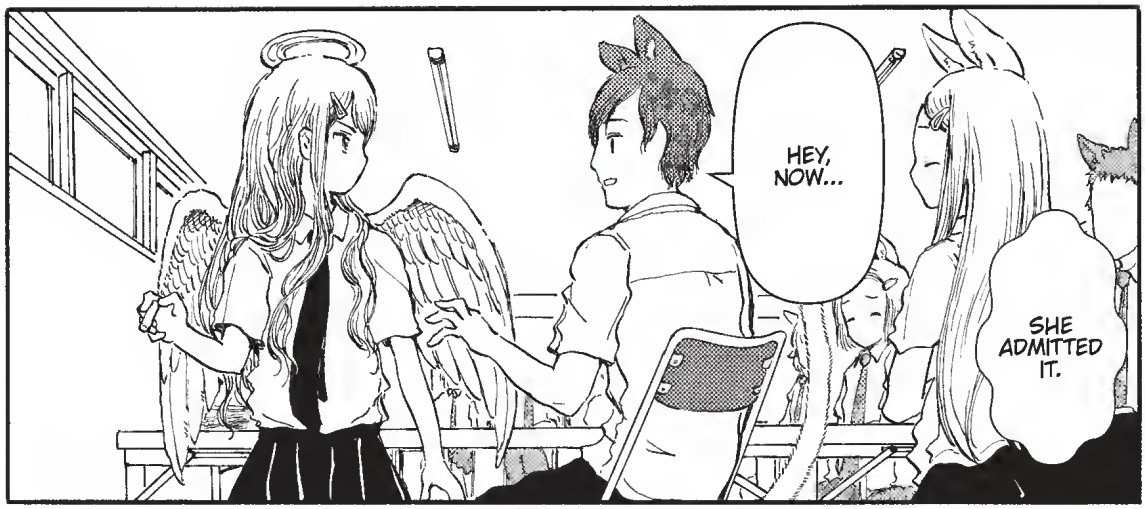
ARE YOU OKAY? DO YOU FEEL SICK?
YESH...
There.
YOU ALWAYS GET LIKE THIS WHEN YOU RUN A LOT, SUE-CHAN.
NO, YOU HAVE TO REST.
I CAN STILL... PLAY...
MYUU~!
LET'S PLAY INSIDE, OKAY?
I WANNA PLAY WITH BIG SISSIES!


SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE

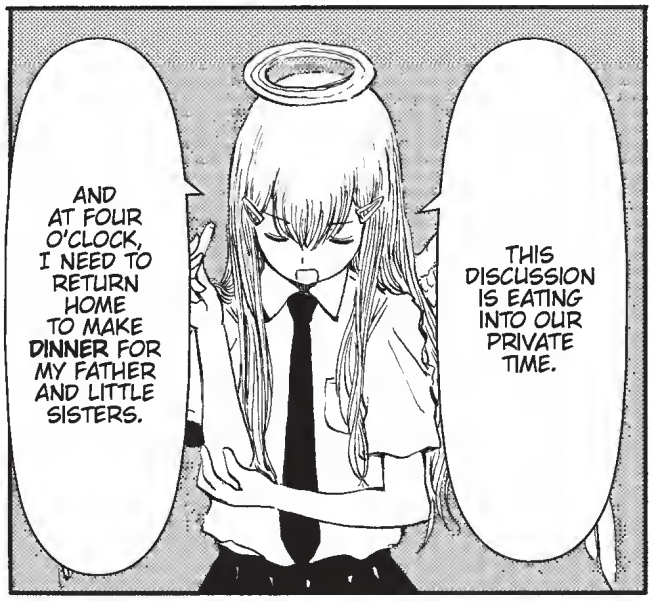

GLAP
GLAP


I THINK WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE SITUATION THOROUGHLY. SHALL WE PUT IT UP TO VOTE?
IT'S THREE O'CLOCK.

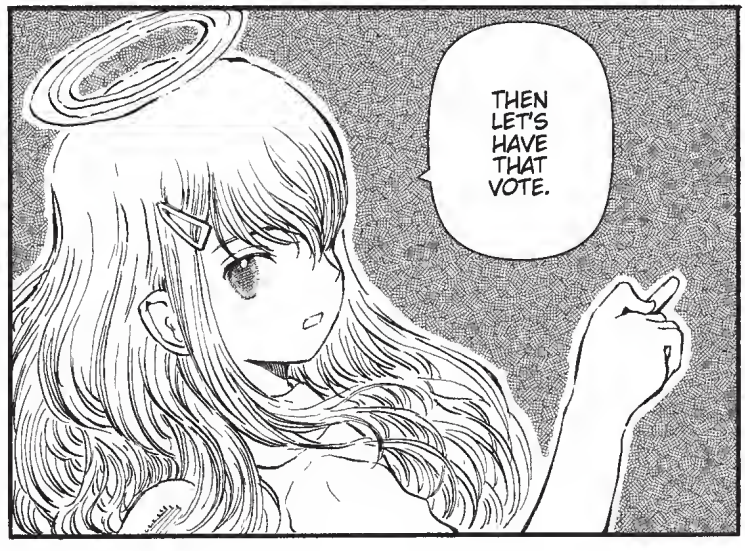

THAT'S RIGHT! WE NEED TO TALK UNTIL EVERY-ONE IS SATISFIED!
WAIT A SECOND! WE'RE NOT DONE YET!
LET'S VOTE AND MOVE ON.
WE AGREED THAT WE WOULD DECIDE BY MAJORITY VOTE IF A DECISION WASN'T REACHED BY THREE.
YES, I DO. IS THAT A PROBLEM?
YOU JUST WANT TO GO HOME, DON'T YOU?
THAT'S RATHER STRICT.

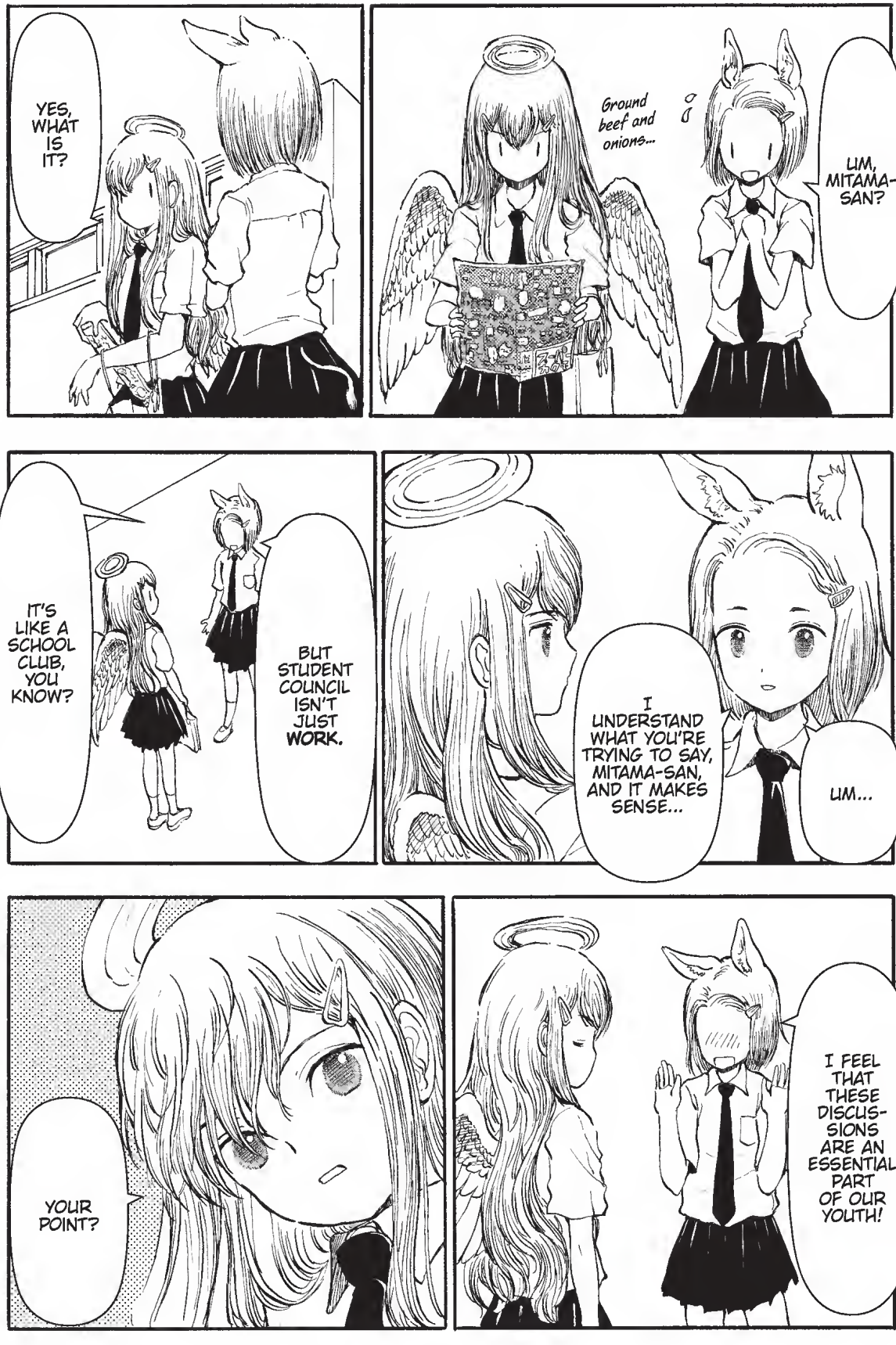

HEY, NOW...
SHE ADMITTED IT.

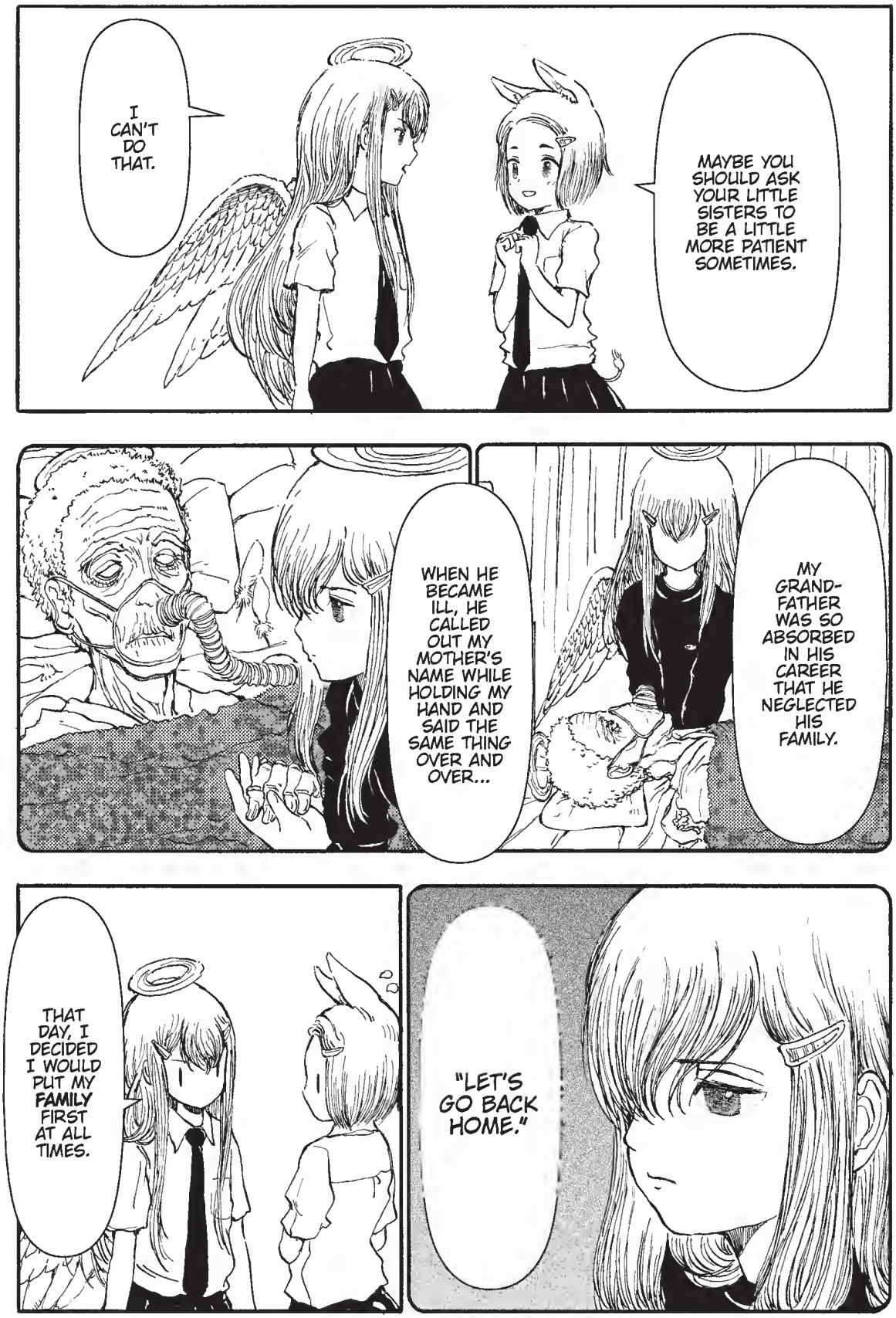
DOES ANYONE HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THIS?


AND AT FOUR O'CLOCK, I NEED TO RETURN HOME TO MAKE DINNER FOR MY FATHER AND LITTLE SISTERS.
THIS DISCUSSION IS EATING INTO OUR PRIVATE TIME.

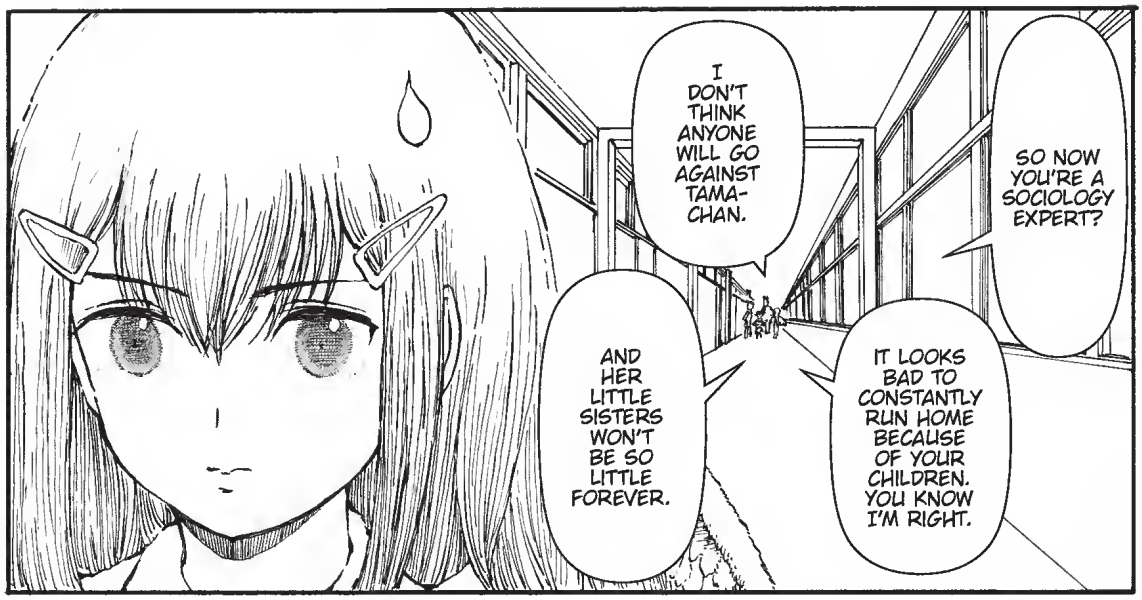
DISPERSE

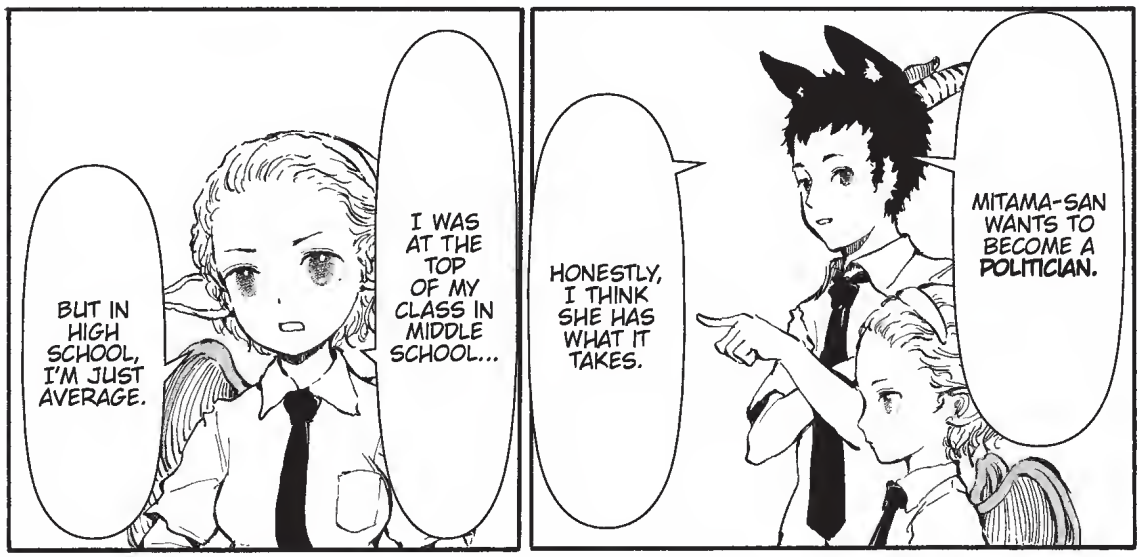

THEN LET'S HAVE THAT VOTE.

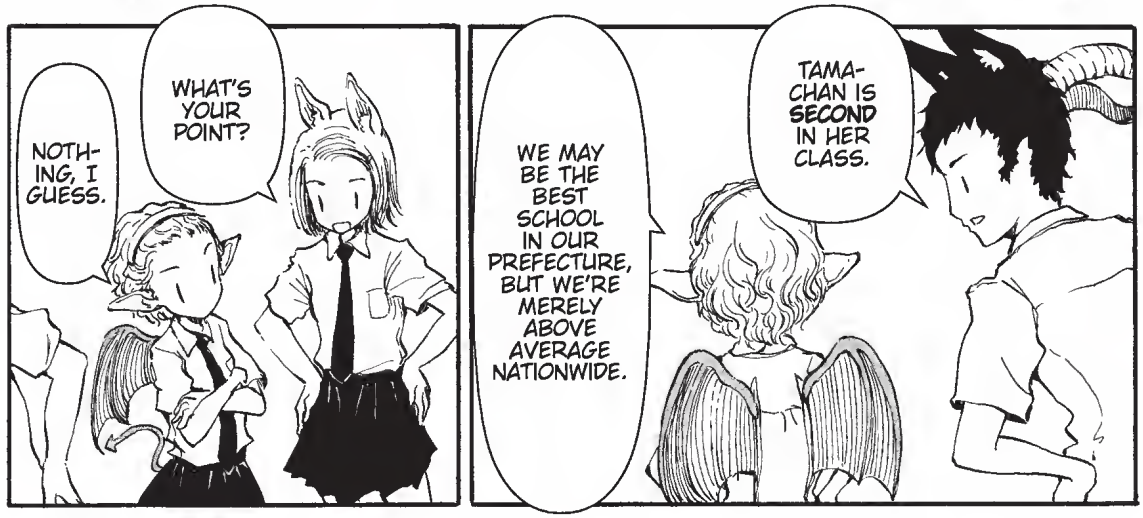

YES, WHAT IS IT?
UM, MITAMA-SAN?
Ground beef and onions...
IT'S LIKE A SCHOOL CLUB, YOU KNOW?
BUT STUDENT COUNCIL ISN'T JUST WORK.
I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY, MITAMA-SAN, AND IT MAKES SENSE...
UM...
YOUR POINT?
I FEEL THAT THESE DISCUS-SIONS ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR YOUTH!

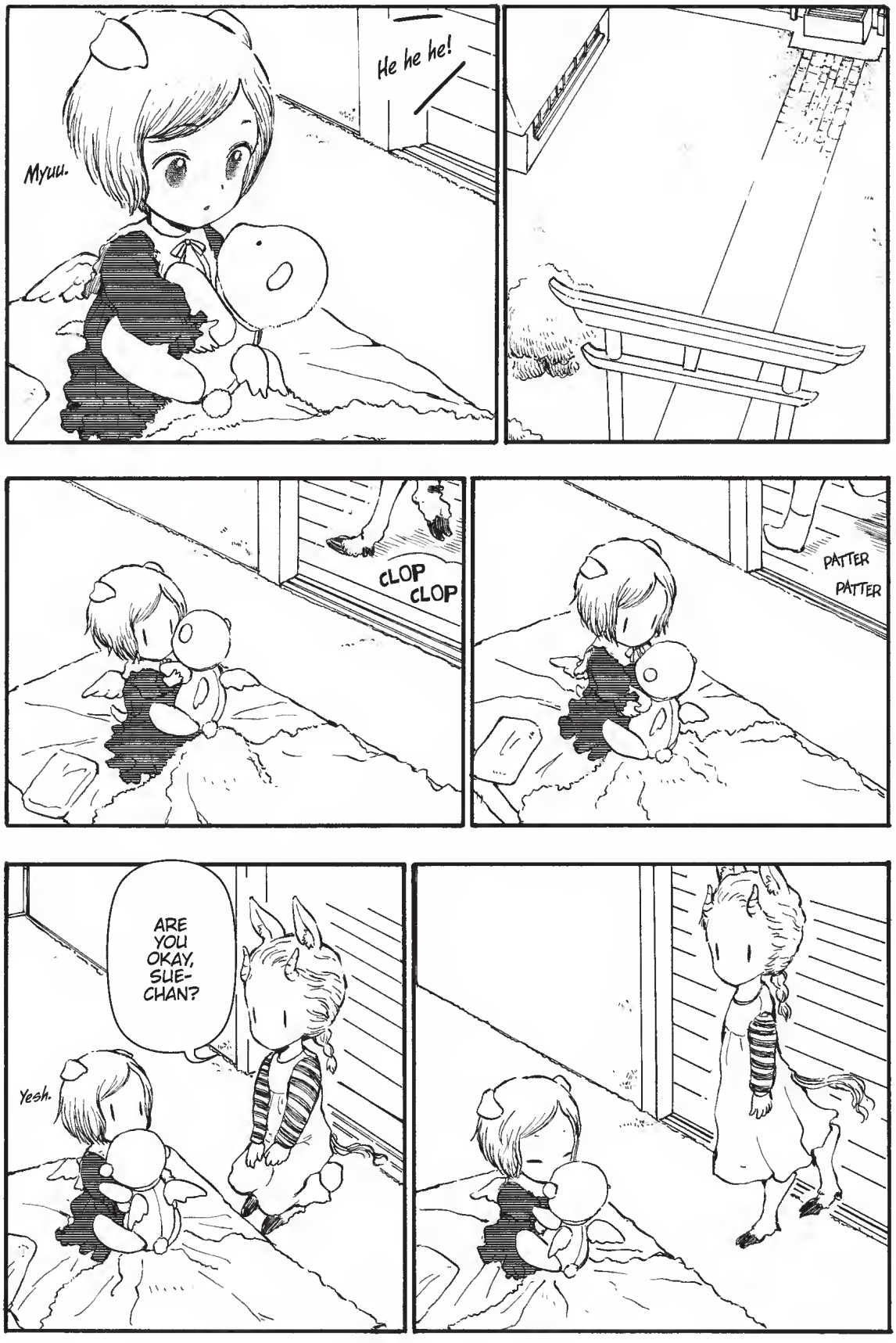

I CAN'T DO THAT.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD ASK YOUR LITTLE SISTERS TO BE A LITTLE MORE PATIENT SOMETIMES.
WHEN HE BECAME ILL, HE CALLED OUT MY MOTHER'S NAME WHILE HOLDING MY HAND AND SAID THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER...
MY GRAND-FATHER WAS SO ABSORBED IN HIS CAREER THAT HE NEGLECTED HIS FAMILY.
THAT DAY, I DECIDED I WOULD PUT MY FAMILY FIRST AT ALL TIMES.
"LET'S GO BACK HOME."

IT'S NO USE. I NEED AT LEAST THIRTY MORE YEARS OF LIFE EXPERI-ENCE TO CONVINCE THAT GIRL.
LEAN
SHE'LL NEVER MAKE IT IN SOCIETY IF SHE KEEPS ACTING LIKE THAT.
YOU WERE PRETTY BRATTY, TOO.
SHE'S SUCH A BRATTY FIRST YEAR.
WHAT ABOUT BRING-ING IN KIJIMA?
HE'S JUST OLD WITH AGE.

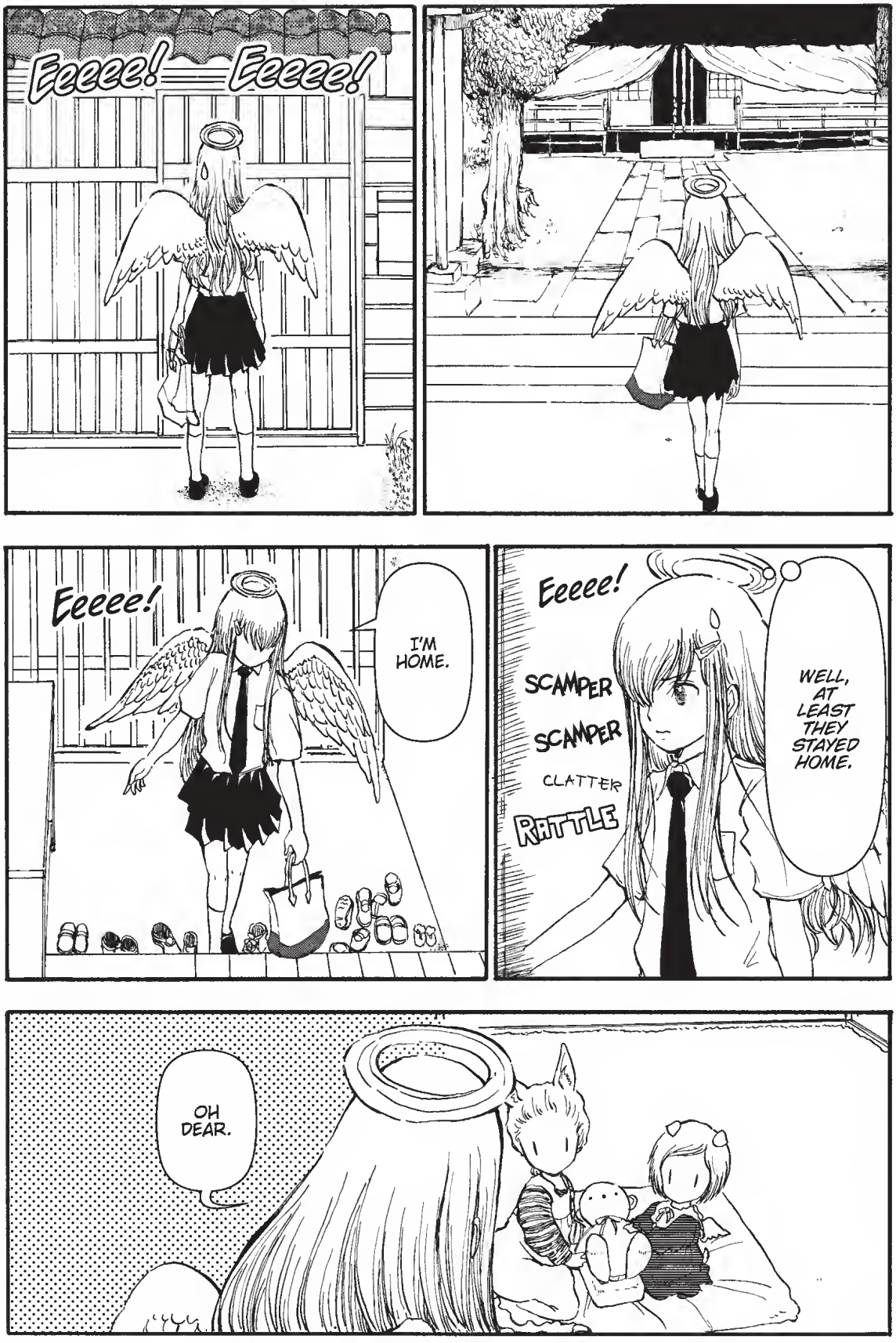

SO NOW YOU'RE A SOCIOLOGY EXPERT?
I DON'T THINK ANYONE WILL GO AGAINST TAMA-CHAN.
IT LOOKS BAD TO CONSTANTLY RUN HOME BECAUSE OF YOUR CHILDREN. YOU KNOW I'M RIGHT.
AND HER LITTLE SISTERS WON'T BE SO LITTLE FOREVER.

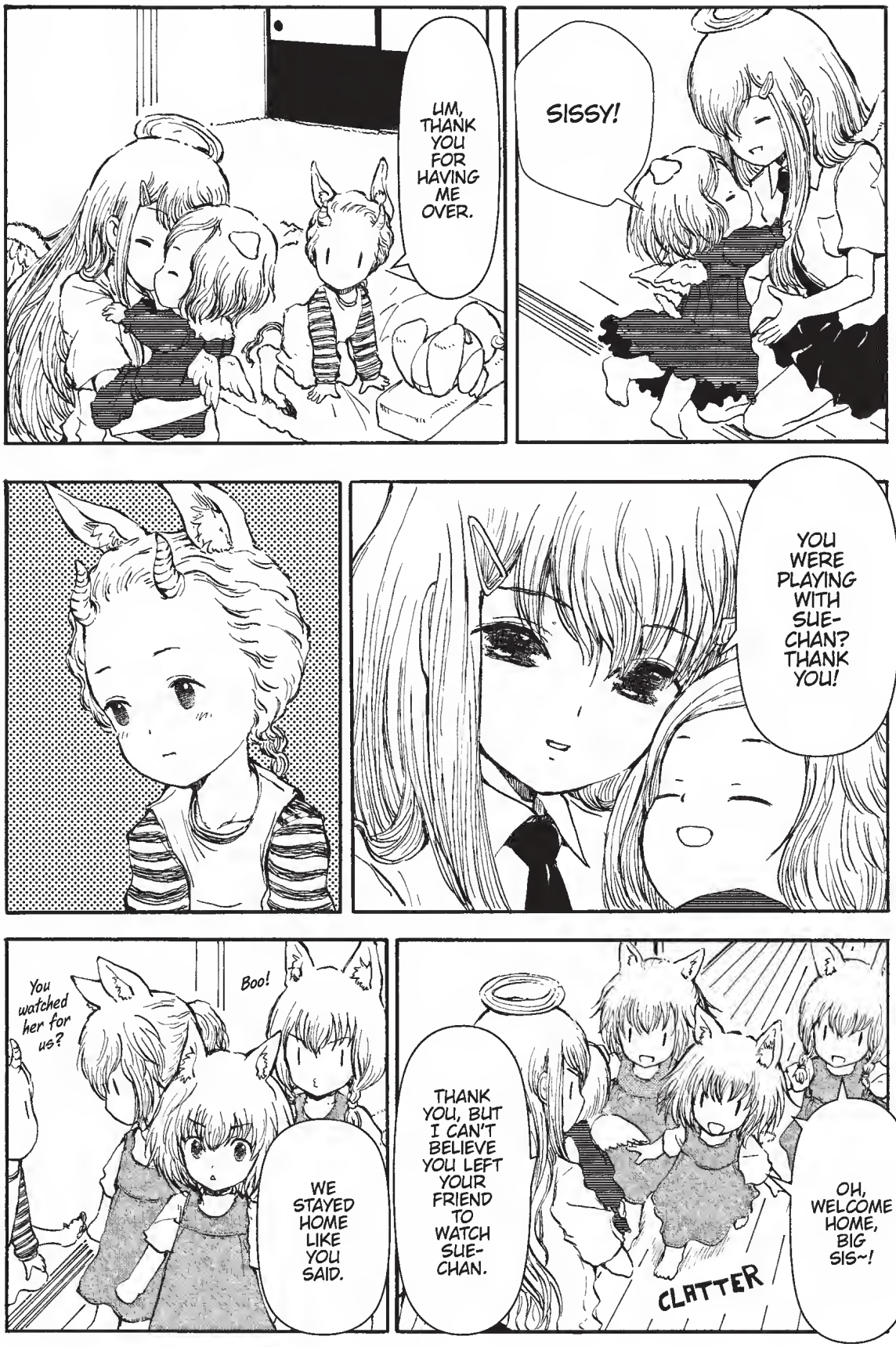

MITAMA-SAN WANTS TO BECOME A **POLITICIAN.**
HONESTLY, I THINK SHE HAS WHAT IT TAKES.
I WAS AT THE TOP OF MY CLASS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...
BUT IN HIGH SCHOOL, I'M JUST AVERAGE.

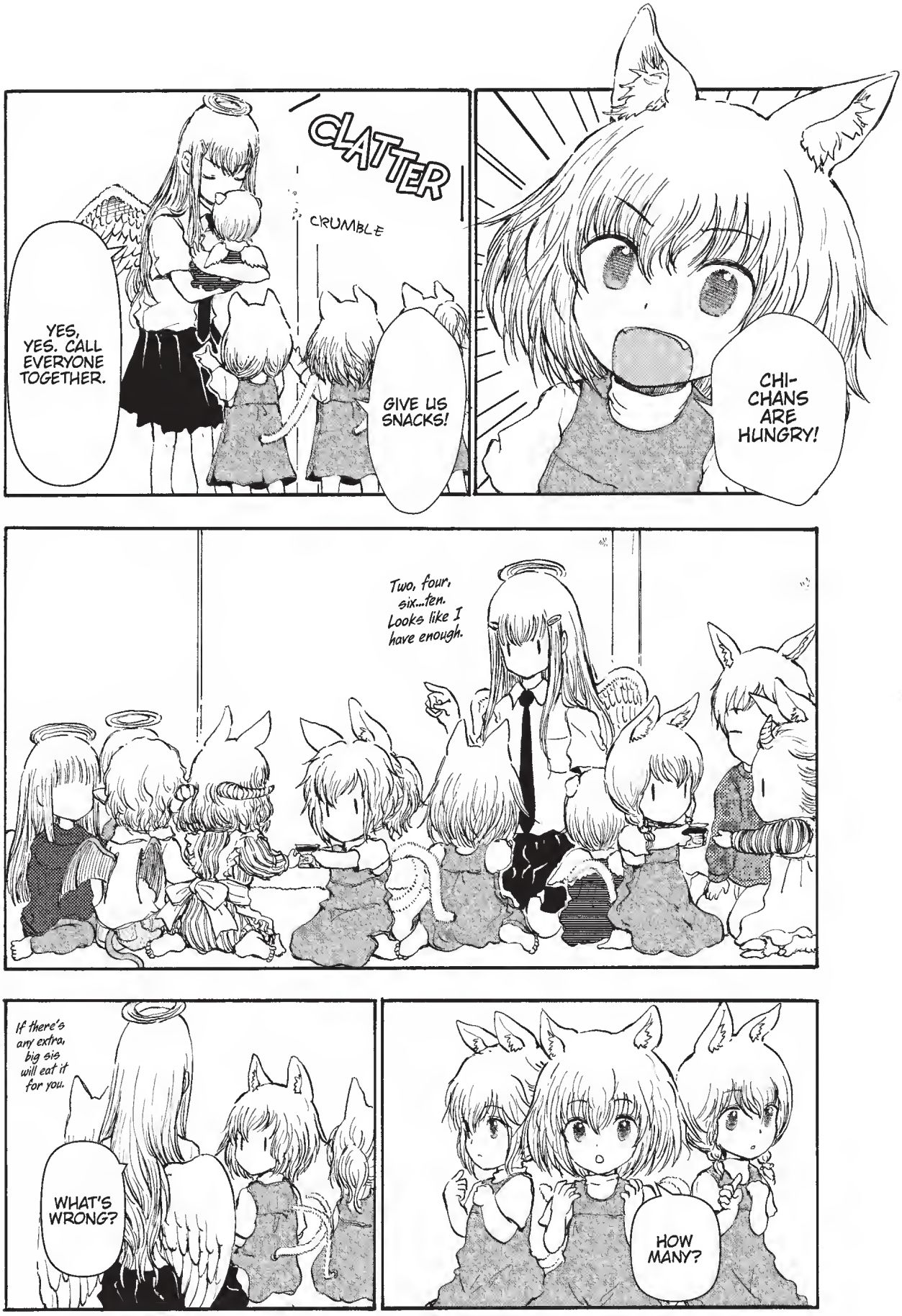

TAMA-CHAN IS **SECOND** IN HER CLASS.
WE MAY BE THE BEST SCHOOL IN OUR PREFECTURE, BUT WE'RE MERELY ABOVE AVERAGE NATIONWIDE.
WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
NOTH-ING, I GUESS.

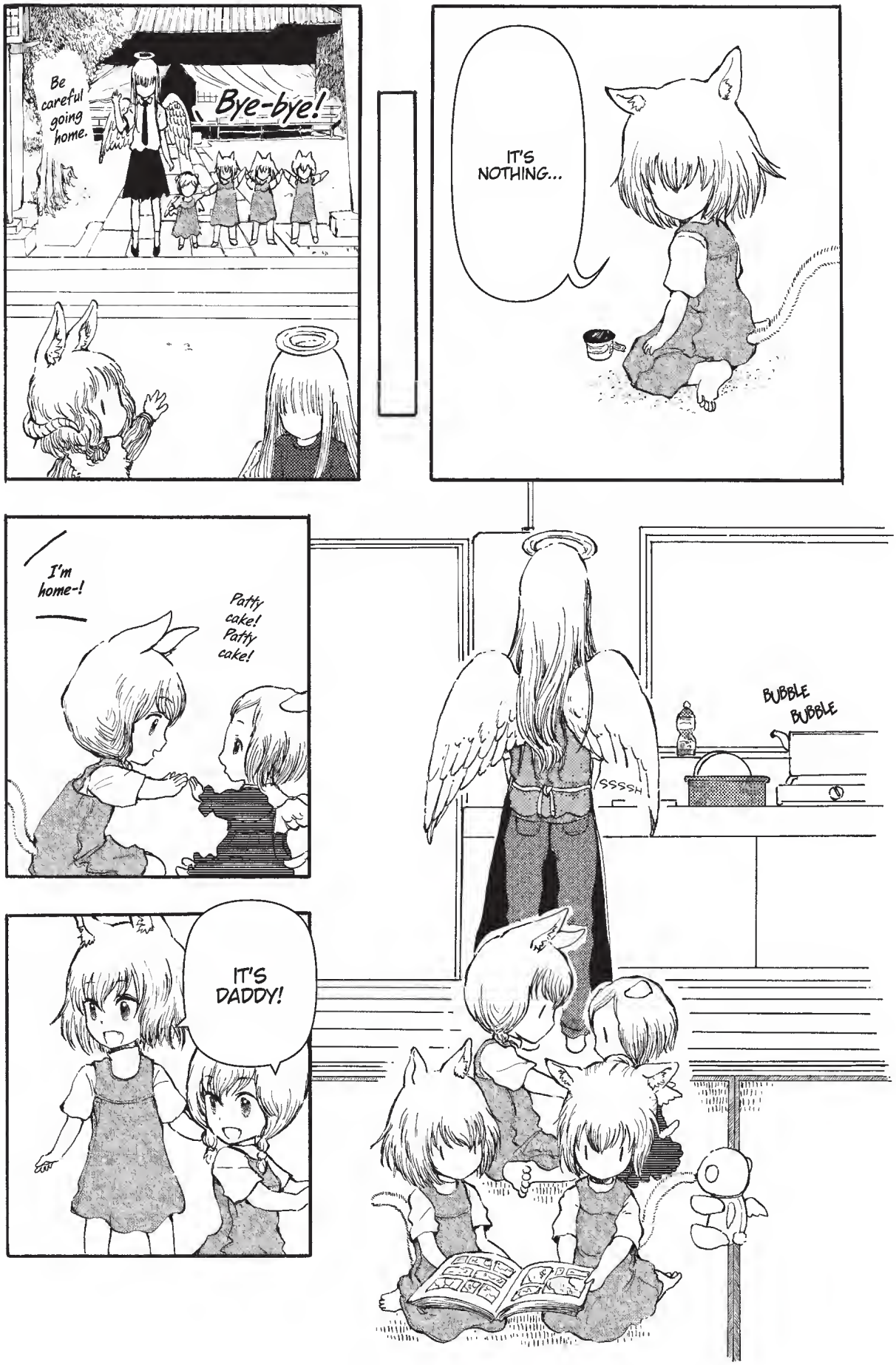

He he he!
Myuu.
CLOP
CLOP
PATTER
PATTER
ARE YOU OKAY, SUE-CHAN?
Yesh.

WANNA PLAY HOUSE WITH THIS BIG SIS?
Myuu...
PATTER PATTER PATTER
Eee!
Want to be the mommy, Sue-chan?
Wait! Wait!
THE CHI-CHANS CALLED SIX CHILDREN OVER...
BUT IF I SPOIL THEIR DINNERS, THEIR MOTHERS WILL COMPLAIN.
Super Kawa

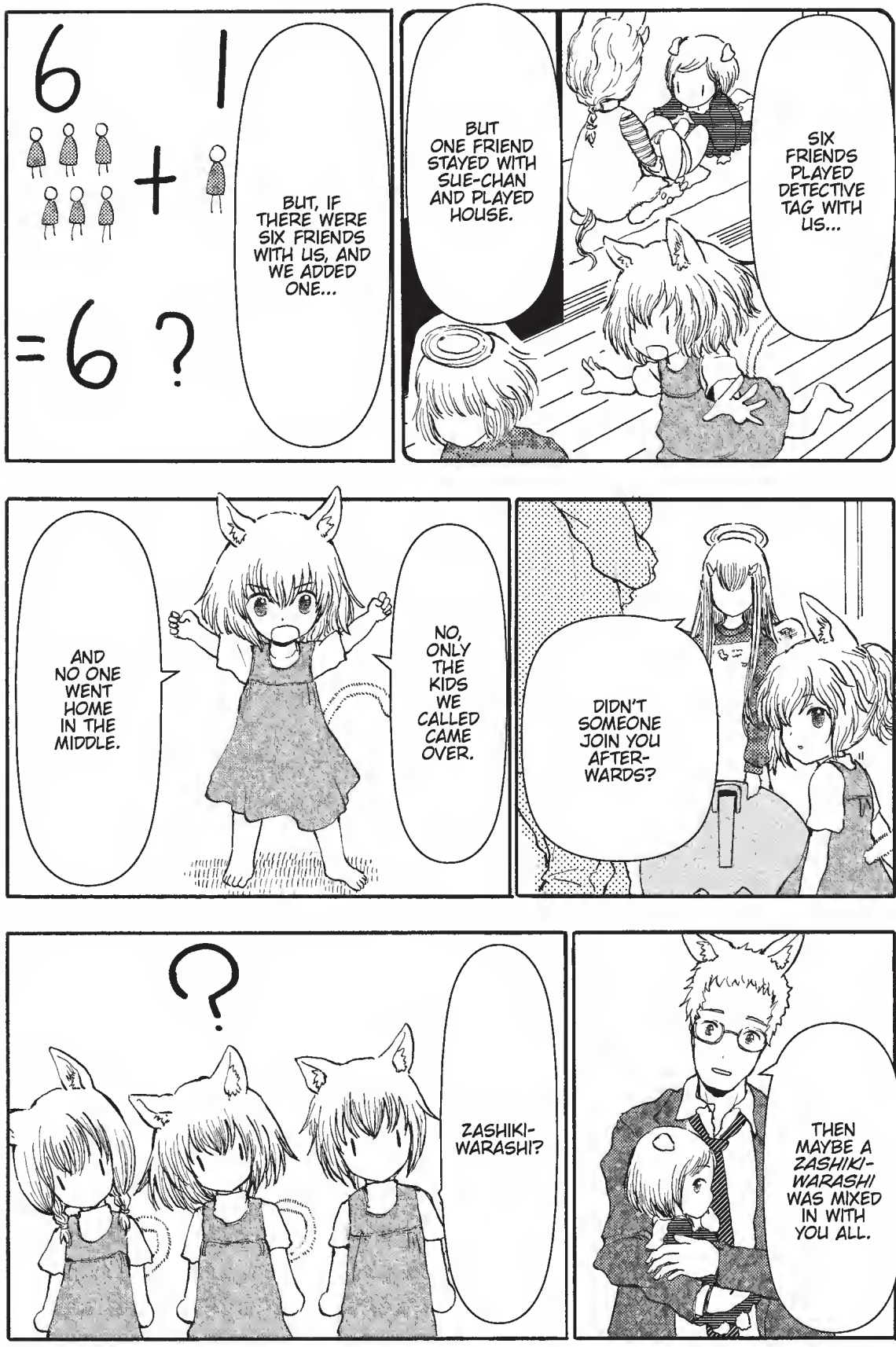

Eeeee! Eeeee!
Eeeee!
I'M HOME.
Eeeee!
SCAMPER
SCAMPER
CLATTER
RATTLE
WELL, AT LEAST THEY STAYED HOME.
OH DEAR.

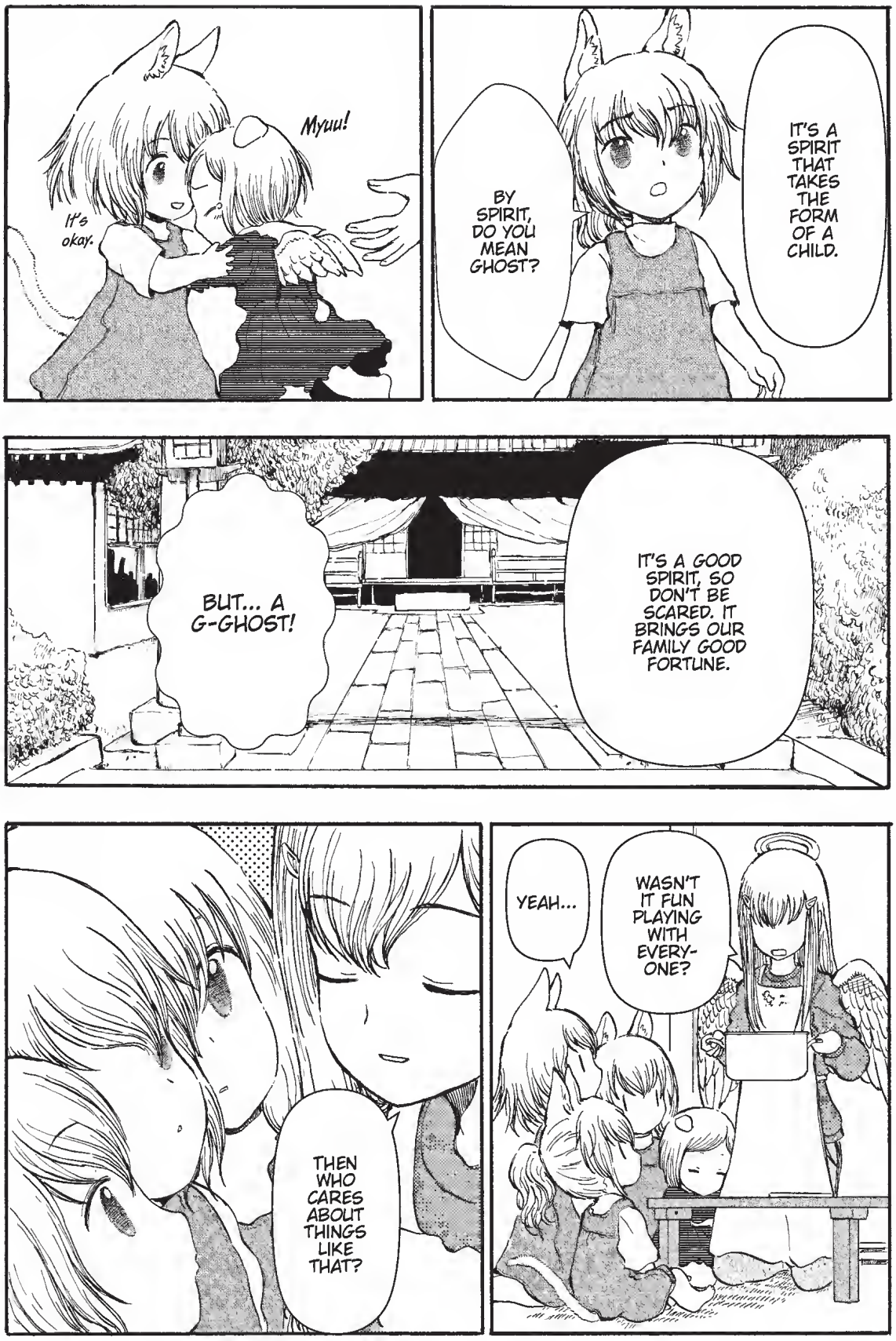

UM, THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME OVER.
SISSY!
YOU WERE PLAYING WITH SUE-CHAN? THANK YOU!
You watched her for us?
Boo!
WE STAYED HOME LIKE YOU SAID.
THANK YOU, BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LEFT YOUR FRIEND TO WATCH SUE-CHAN.
CLATTER
OH, WELCOME HOME, BIG SIS~!


CLATTER
CRUMBLE
YES, YES. CALL EVERYONE TOGETHER.
GIVE US SNACKS!
CHI-CHANS ARE HUNGRY!
Two, four, six...ten. Looks like I have enough.
If there's any extra, big sis will eat it for you.
WHAT'S WRONG?
HOW MANY?


Be careful going home.
Bye-bye!
IT'S NOTHING...
I'm home-!
Patty cake! Patty cake!
SSSSH
BUBBLE BUBBLE
IT'S DADDY!

HAVE YOU ALL BEEN GOOD?
WELCOME HOME!
DASH
YEAH!
WE STAYED HOME LIKE BIG SIS SAID.
WEIRD.
BUT...SOMETHING WEIRD HAPPENED.
WE CALLED SIX FRIENDS OVER TO PLAY.


6
1
+
=6 ?
BUT, IF THERE WERE SIX FRIENDS WITH US, AND WE ADDED ONE...
BUT ONE FRIEND STAYED WITH SUE-CHAN AND PLAYED HOUSE.
SIX FRIENDS PLAYED DETECTIVE TAG WITH US...
AND NO ONE WENT HOME IN THE MIDDLE.
NO, ONLY THE KIDS WE CALLED CAME OVER.
DIDN'T SOMEONE JOIN YOU AFTER-WARDS?
?
ZASHIKI-WARASHI?
THEN MAYBE A ZASHIKI-WARASHI WAS MIXED IN WITH YOU ALL.


Myuu!
It's okay.
BY SPIRIT, DO YOU MEAN GHOST?
IT'S A SPIRIT THAT TAKES THE FORM OF A CHILD.
BUT... A G-GHOST!
IT'S A GOOD SPIRIT, SO DON'T BE SCARED. IT BRINGS OUR FAMILY GOOD FORTUNE.
THEN WHO CARES ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT?
YEAH...
WASN'T IT FUN PLAYING WITH EVERY-ONE?

CHAPTER 12 TRANSLATION NOTE:
A *ZASHIKI-WARASHI* IS A CREATURE FABLED TO LIVE IN SOME TATAMI ROOMS THAT BRINGS GOOD FORTUNE TO THE FAMILY WHILE IT STAYS IN THE HOUSE AND BAD FORTUNE IF IT LEAVES.

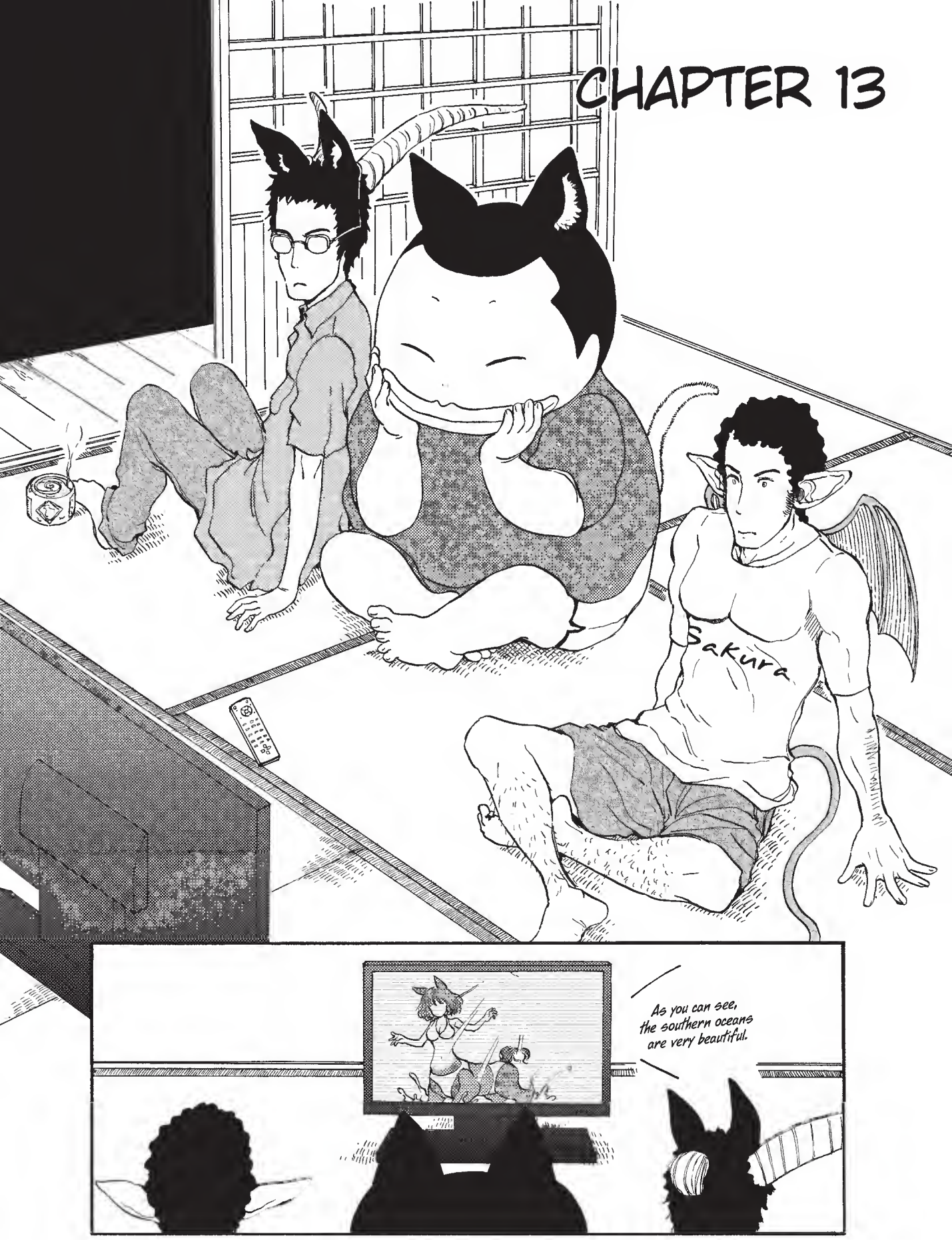
A Centaur's Life

SUPERNATURAL BEINGS: VAMPIRES

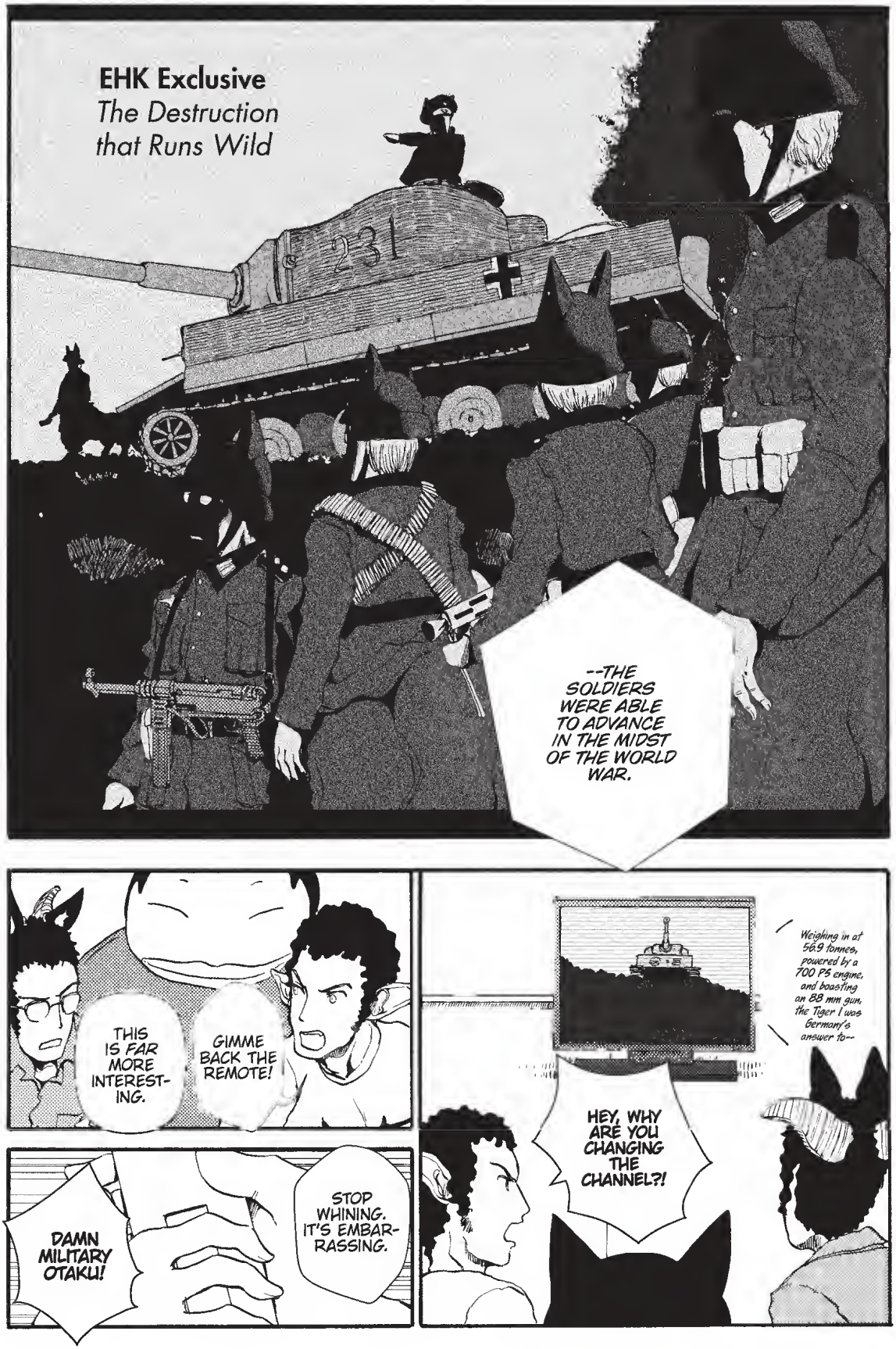
SUPERNATURAL BEINGS THAT DRINK HUMAN BLOOD ARE FOUND IN FOLKLORE ALL OVER THE WORLD, BUT THE ICONIC IMAGE OF VAMPIRES COMES FROM THE NOVEL *DRACULA*, WRITTEN BY BRAM STOKER. THE VAMPIRE'S WEAKNESS TO LIGHT, GARLIC, AND THE CROSS, AS WELL AS THE ABILITY TO TURN INTO A BAT, ARE ALL TRAITS THAT WERE POPULARIZED IN THE BOOK.

VAMPIRES ARE OFTEN DEPICTED TO BE DRAGONFOLK WITH ARISTOCRATIC SPEECH, PULLED-BACK HAIR, AND A CAPE AS BLACK AS NIGHT. THIS DEPICTION ORIGINATED FROM THE DRAGONFOLK THAT DRESSED AS DRACULA ON THE STAGE AND IN EARLY MOVIES. THE FIRST ACTOR TO PORTRAY DRACULA FOR A MASS AUDIENCE, BELA LUGOSI, BECAME THE ARCHETYPE FOR THE VAMPIRE CHARACTER. DRACULA WAS BASED ON THE ACTUAL TRANSYLVANIAN RULER VLAD THE IMPALER. THIS CREATURE IS EVERY BIT AS ICONIC AS FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER.

CHAPTER 13


Sakura
As you can see, the southern oceans are very beautiful.

BOOOR-ING.
The Mid-Summer Sea
YOU CAN JUST BASK IN NATURE'S ABUNDANCE.
CLICK


EHK Exclusive
The Destruction that Runs Wild
231
--THE SOLDIERS WERE ABLE TO ADVANCE IN THE MIDST OF THE WORLD WAR.
THIS IS FAR MORE INTEREST-ING.
GIMME BACK THE REMOTE!
Weighing in at 56.9 tonnes, powered by a 700 PS engine, and boasting an 88 mm gun, the Tiger I was Germany's answer to--
HEY, WHY ARE YOU CHANGING THE CHANNEL?!
DAMN MILITARY OTAKU!
STOP WHINING. IT'S EMBAR-RASSING.

Oh! It's delicious-!
BLIP
How about this?
CLICK
Food Competition!
WE'LL HAVE THE CONTESTANTS FINISH THIS FIRST!
Defending Champion

Defending Champion
Oh, it looks like the defending champion has retired!
THAT WON'T ADD TO YOUR INTELLI-GENCE AT ALL!
GET AWAY FROM FOOD AL-READY!
Number one has a huge lead over the defending champion!
HEY! SWIM-SUITS ARE THE ONLY THING WORTH WATCHING ON TV!
.....?
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY STILL MIGHT TAKE A WHILE...
MEN SHOULD WATCH THINGS LIKE WAR AND ENGINEER-ING!
No, it's food competitions!
It's war stories!

Oil Painter
Roadshow
Friday
*The current depiction is a historical replica using detailed historic accounts and may not coincide with current world views.
CLICK
カチ

Raah!
Raah!
THIS IS PRETTY INTEREST-ING.
Raaah!
Raaah!
WHY ARE YOU CHOOS-ING?!
Stop it!
Gimme that!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE MEN FIGHT OVER SOMETHING, EVEN ON TV!

カチ
CLICK
KIYOMORI-DONO!
カチ
CLICK
カチ
CLICK
MAGICAL GIRL PRETTY HORN~!

カチ CLICK
1400 YEARS AGO, IT WAS BUILT BY PRINCE SHOTOKU--
Treasure donated to Houryuji temple. Miroku Buddha on One Leg
CLICK カチ
WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE, RACE DOESN'T MATTER!
CLICK カチ
--THE AREA IS UNDERGOING A SEVERE AIR RAID.
News
Amphibian Man, War on Drugs Arial Attack Protest

THANKS FOR WAITING~!
Sakura
Pro-wrestling?
UM, WHAT ARE THESE GUYS DOING?

A CentaUr's Life

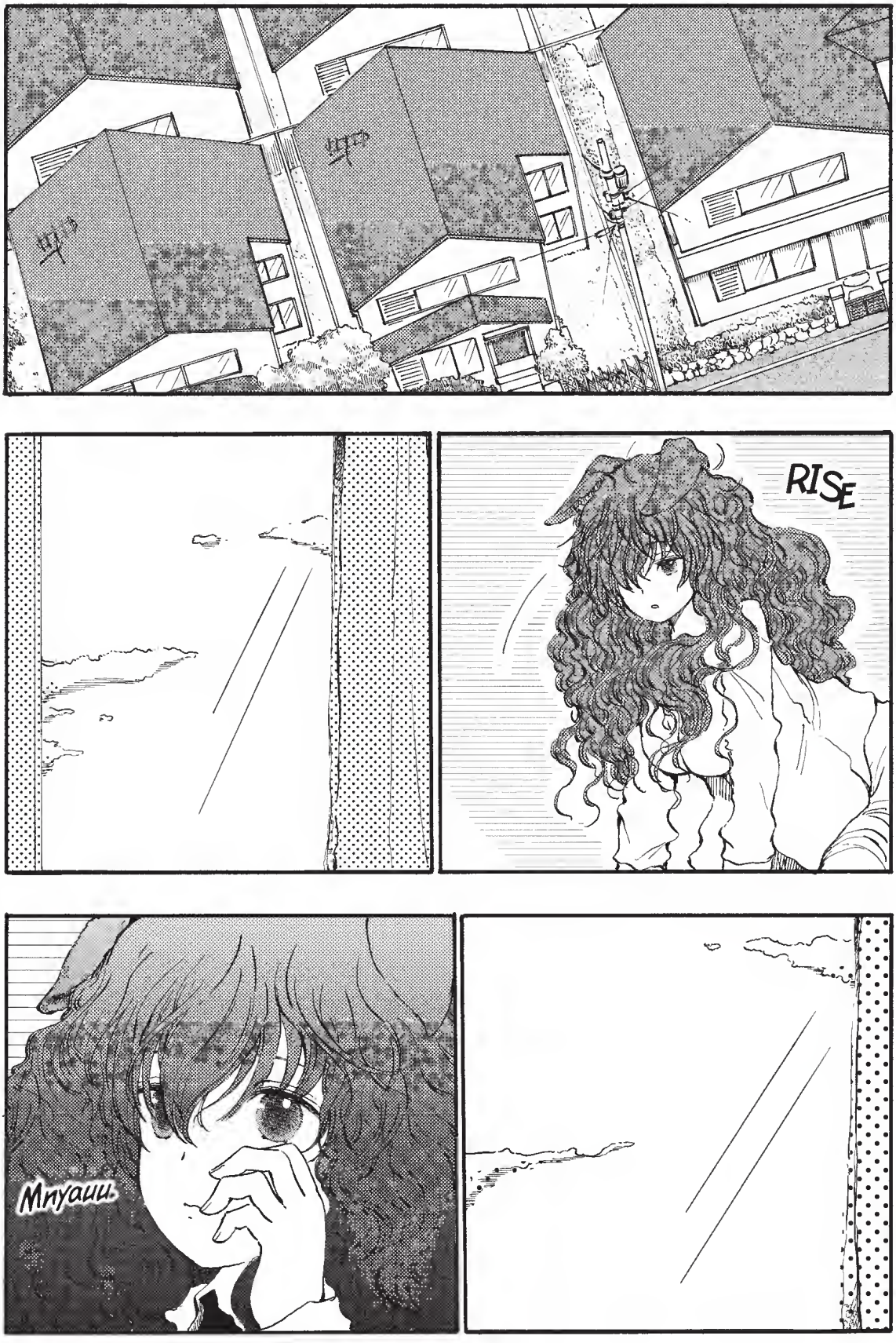
SUPERNATURAL BEINGS: MAGICAL GIRLS

THIS IS ANOTHER SUPERNATURAL BEING THAT BEGAN IN MODERN TIMES. THERE ARE MANY LEGENDS OF MAGICAL FEMALES, BUT THOSE STORIES OFTEN DEPICT THEM AS DECREPIT WITCHES OR BEAUTIFUL WOMEN. MAGICAL GIRLS ARE GIRLS IN THE BLOSSOM OF YOUTH AND ARE OFTEN QUITE YOUNG. IT IS THOUGHT THAT THIS AGE RESTRICTION IS TO MAKE THEM CLOSER (AND THUS MORE APPEALING) TO THEIR TARGET AUDIENCE.

MAGICAL GIRLS COME IN MANY DIFFERENT SHAPES AND FORMS, PROBABLY BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ARCHETYPE (SUCH AS DRACULA FOR VAMPIRES) THAT DICTATED A SPECIFIC FORM. IN ORDER TO AVOID RACIAL FAVORITISM, TWO TYPES OF SHOWS ARE FORMULATED:

① A STORY WITH A TEAM OF MAGICAL GIRLS REPRESENTING ALL OF THE MAJOR RACES, OR

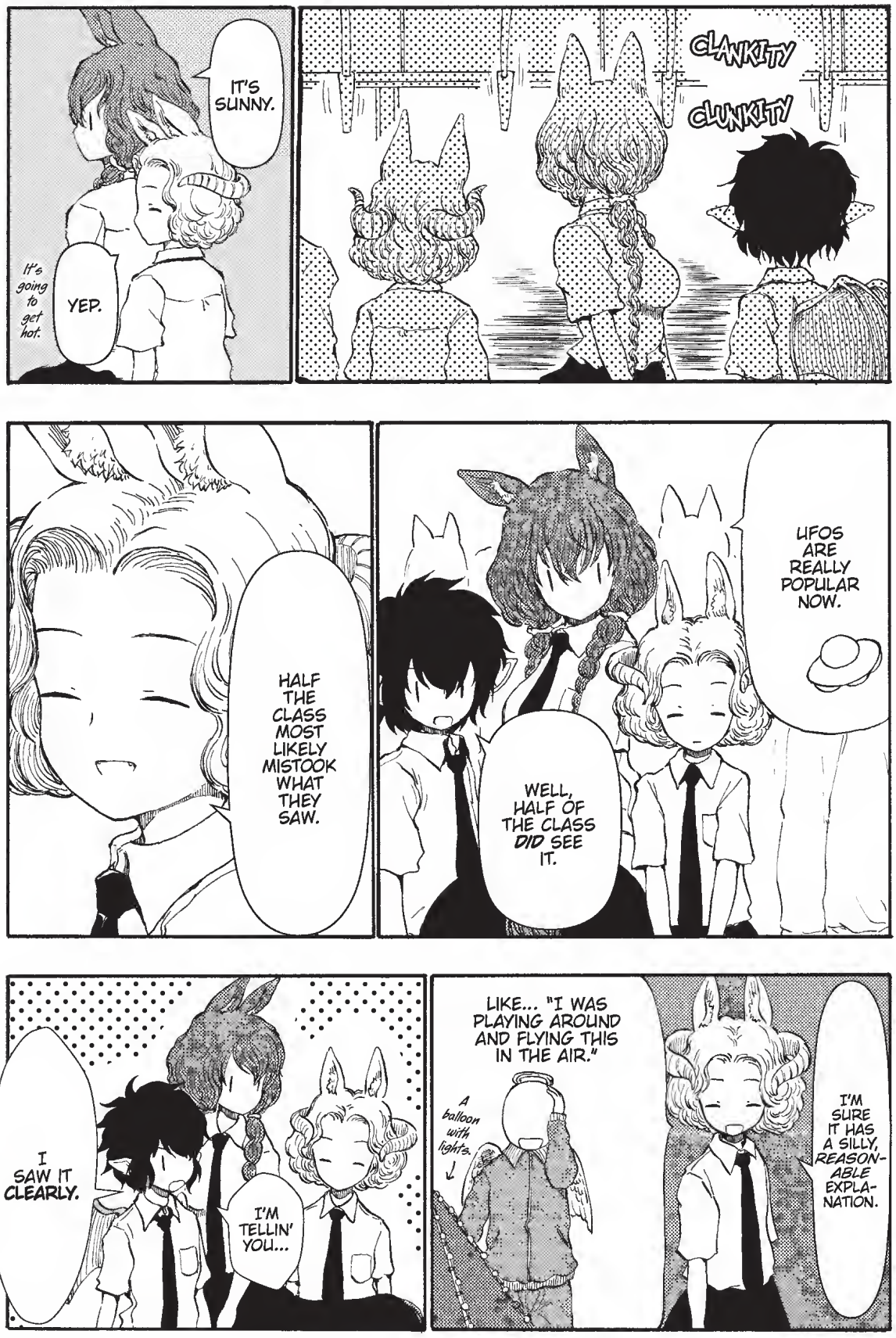
② A STORY IN WHICH THE MAIN MAGICAL GIRL CHARACTER CHANGES EVERY SEASON.


RISE
Mnyauu.

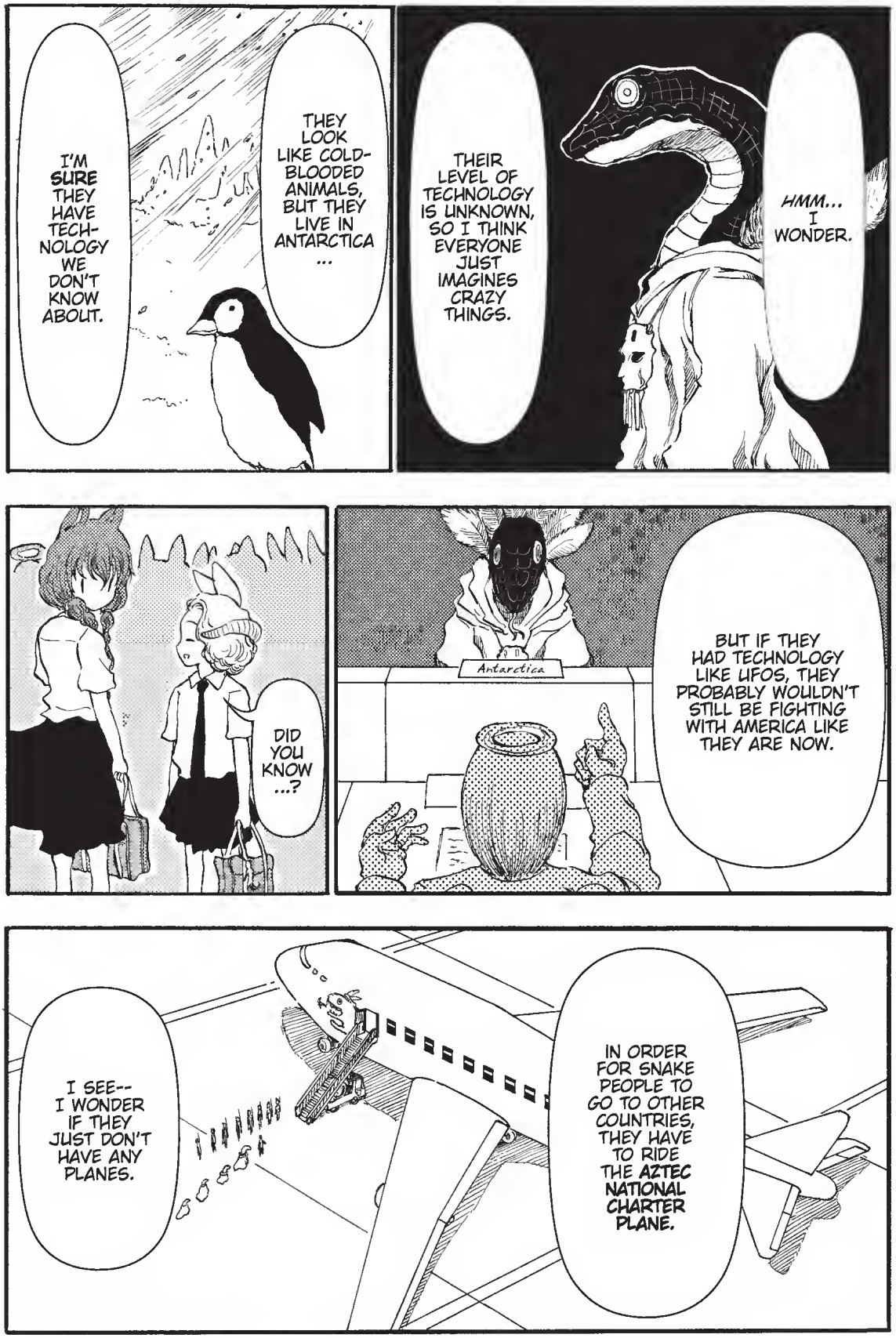
There's no UFO-!
I GUESS I'LL GET UP...
CLICK
YAWN
MOM. BREAK-FAST~!
OH, IT'S RARE FOR YOU TO WAKE UP ON YOUR OWN.
Mmmyaa...
BOTH.
ARE YOU READING THE PAPER OR WATCHING TV, HONEY?
I'M OFF~!
DON'T SPACE OUT, AND WATCH OUT FOR CARS.

CHAPTER 14

CLANKITY
CLUNKITY
SHE'S LOOKING FOR A UFO!
UH, NO REASON.
WHY ARE YOU STARING UP AT THE SKY?
DO YOU SEE ONE?
NOPE.

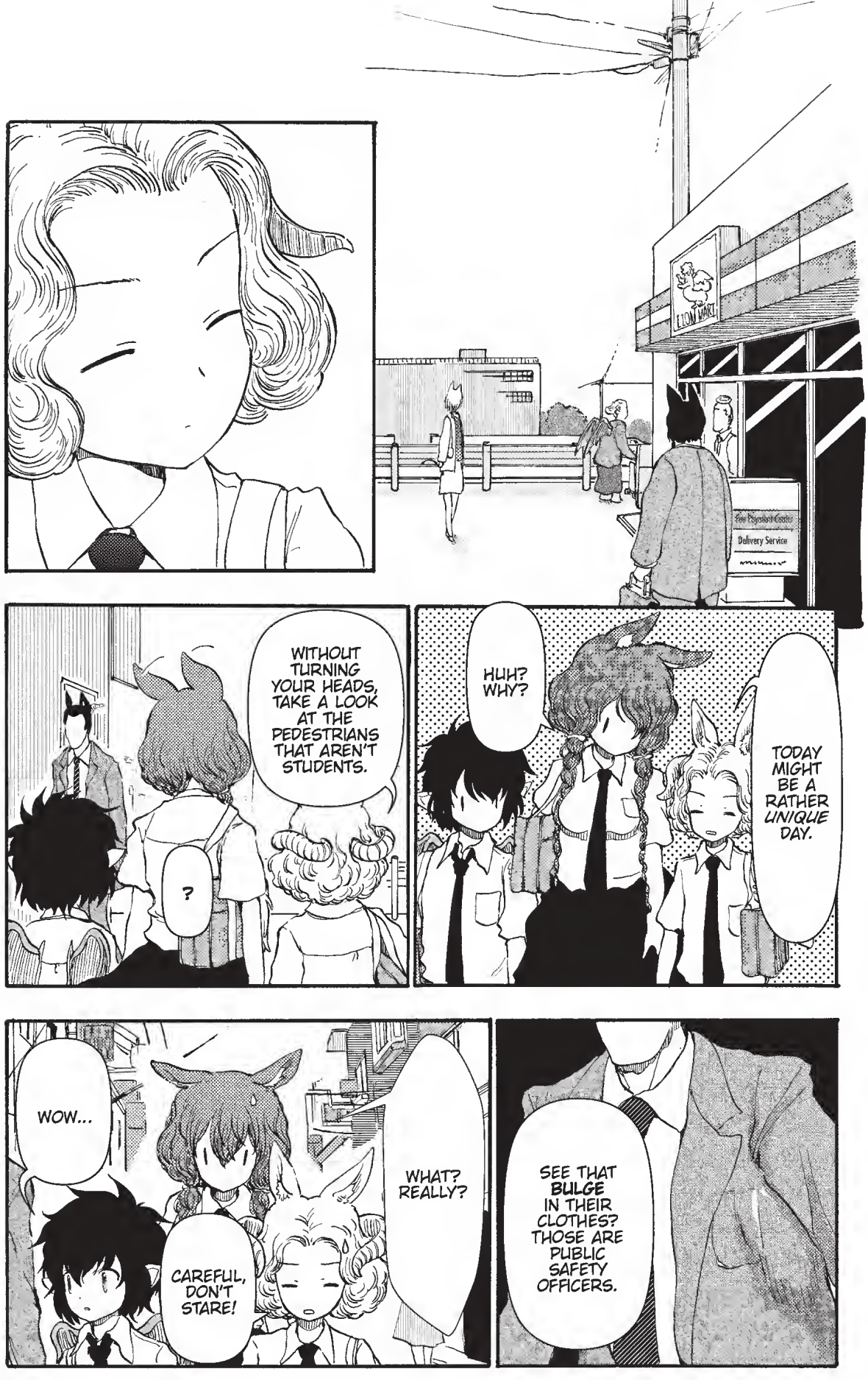

IT'S SUNNY.
YEP.
It's going to get hot.
CLANKITY
CLUNKITY
HALF THE CLASS MOST LIKELY MISTOOK WHAT THEY SAW.
WELL, HALF OF THE CLASS DID SEE IT.
UFOS ARE REALLY POPULAR NOW.
I SAW IT CLEARLY.
I'M TELLIN' YOU...
LIKE... "I WAS PLAYING AROUND AND FLYING THIS IN THE AIR."
A balloon with lights.
I'M SURE IT HAS A SILLY, REASONABLE EXPLANATION.

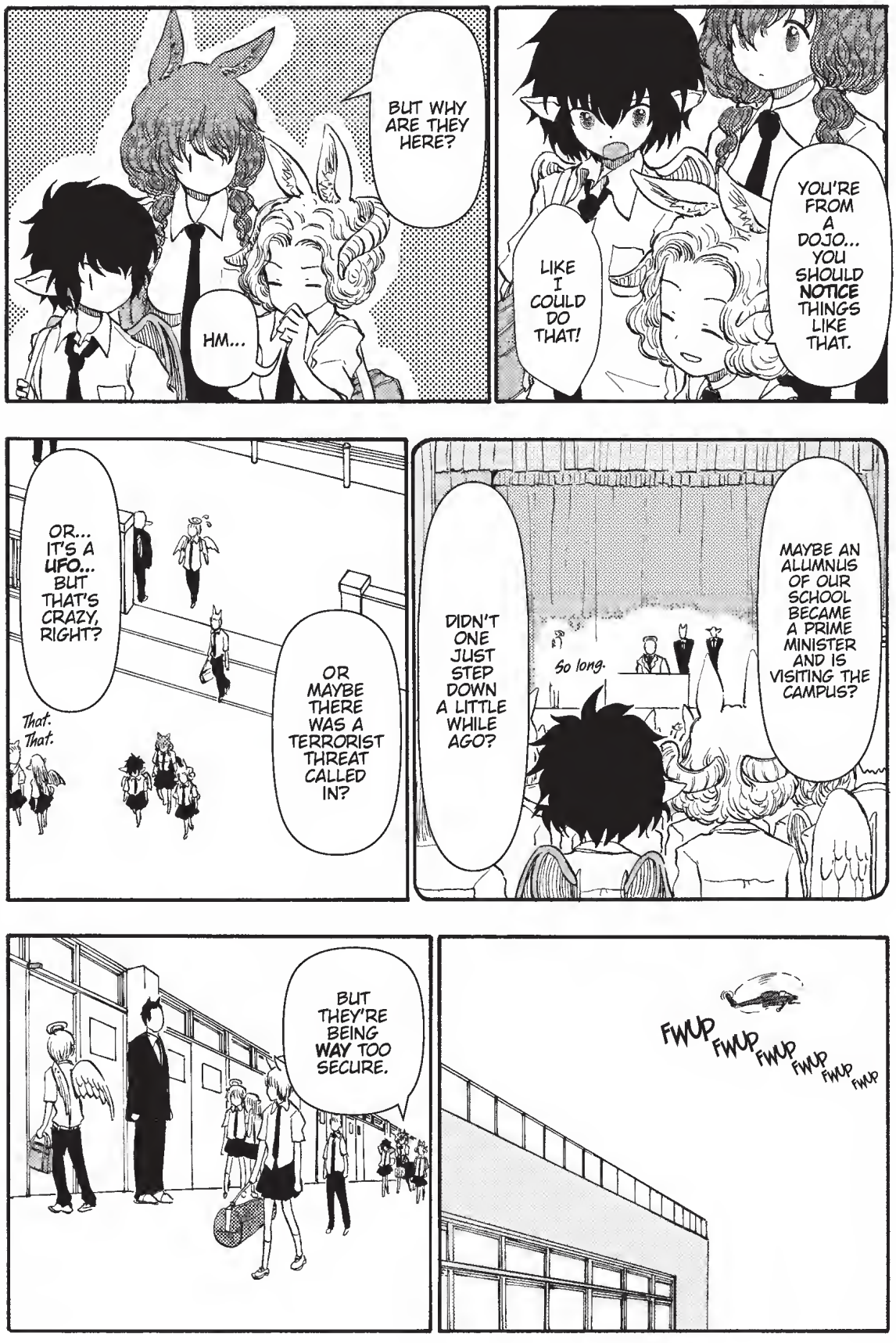
WHAT IF IT REALLY WAS A UFO, KYO-CHAN?
Mmgh!
CLANKITY
CLUNKITY
IT TAKES A LOT OF MONEY, RESEARCH, AND PEOPLE TO BUILD A SECRET WEAPON, SO I DON'T THINK THAT A DEAD ORGANIZATION COULD PULL THAT OFF.
THAT IT'S A FLYING SHIP FOR THE ANTARCTIC SNAKE PEOPLE. ALL OF THEM SOUND IFFY.
WHAT, LIKE AN ALIEN SPACE-SHIP? OR A SECRET UNDIS-COVERED NAZI WEAPON? THERE'S ALSO A THEORY...
THEN WHAT ABOUT AN ANTARC-TICAN?
BESIDES, THE IDEA OF ALIENS CAME FROM OLD SPIRIT FOLK-LORE AND MYTHOLOGY.
Oh!
IF IT WAS AN ALIEN, I DON'T THINK THEY'D BE SKULKING ABOUT.

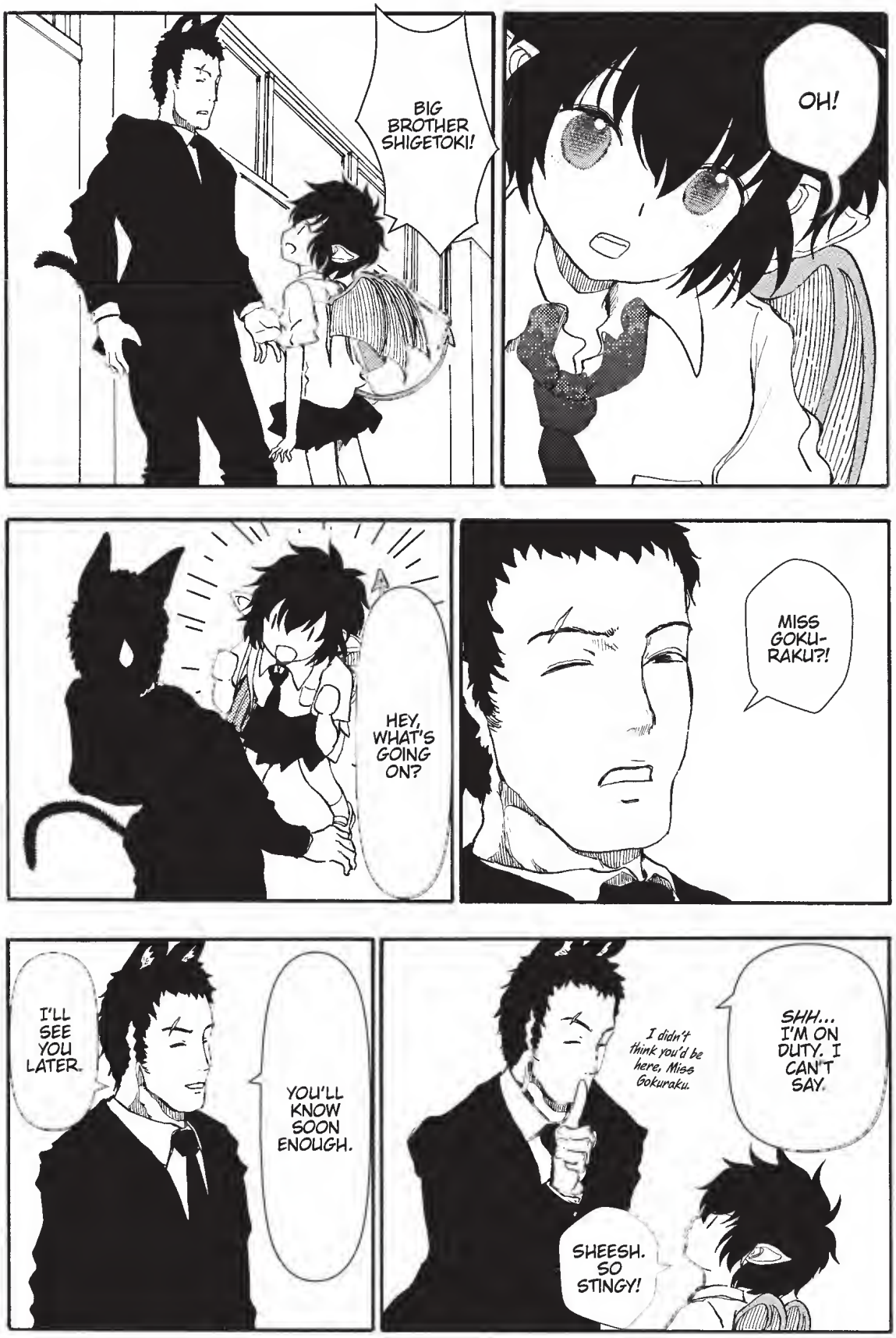

I'M SURE THEY HAVE TECH-NOLOGY WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT.
THEY LOOK LIKE COLD-BLOODED ANIMALS, BUT THEY LIVE IN ANTARCTICA ...
THEIR LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY IS UNKNOWN, SO I THINK EVERYONE JUST IMAGINES CRAZY THINGS.
HMM... I WONDER.
DID YOU KNOW ...?
Antarctica
BUT IF THEY HAD TECHNOLOGY LIKE UFOS, THEY PROBABLY WOULDN'T STILL BE FIGHTING WITH AMERICA LIKE THEY ARE NOW.
I SEE-- I WONDER IF THEY JUST DON'T HAVE ANY PLANES.
IN ORDER FOR SNAKE PEOPLE TO GO TO OTHER COUNTRIES, THEY HAVE TO RIDE THE AZTEC NATIONAL CHARTER PLANE.

THEY DON'T SEEM TO HAVE HIGH LEVELS OF SCIENTIFIC TECH-NOLOGY.
THEY SAY HE PROTECTED THEM FROM INVASION, BUT IN THE END, IT SEEMS HE EXISTED ONLY TO UNITE THE PEOPLE.
UM, THE SNAKE PEOPLE FOLLOW THE AZTEC RELIGION, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT. MAINLY THE GOD QUETZAL-COATL.
Furukanata. Furukanata.
OH, WE'RE HERE.
I WONDER IF SOMETHING EXCITING WILL HAPPEN...
EVEN IF THERE WAS A UFO, THINGS WOULDN'T CHANGE MUCH.
If you want some excitement, make it yourself.

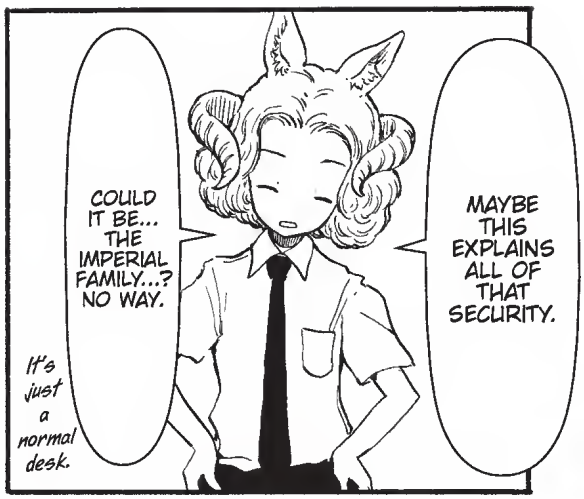
UH-HUH...
HEY, NOZOMI-CHAN! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
FWIP
HEY, HEY. BE CAREFUL.
Owwie...
BONK
Nn-gah!
Ah.

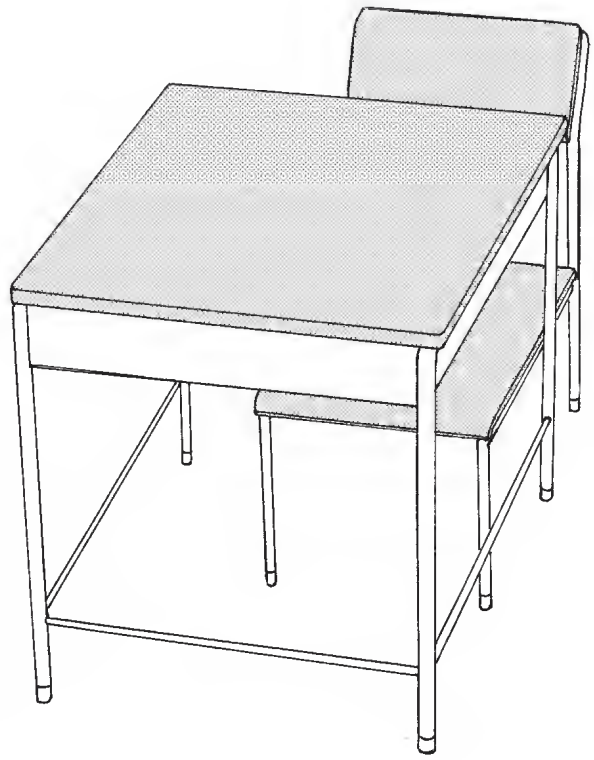

LION MART
Fee Payment Center
Delivery Service
TODAY MIGHT BE A RATHER UNIQUE DAY.
HUH? WHY?
WITHOUT TURNING YOUR HEADS, TAKE A LOOK AT THE PEDESTRIANS THAT AREN'T STUDENTS.
?
SEE THAT BULGE IN THEIR CLOTHES? THOSE ARE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS.
WHAT? REALLY?
CAREFUL, DON'T STARE!
WOW...


BUT WHY ARE THEY HERE?
HM...
YOU'RE FROM A DOJO... YOU SHOULD NOTICE THINGS LIKE THAT.
LIKE I COULD DO THAT!
OR... IT'S A UFO... BUT THAT'S CRAZY, RIGHT?
OR MAYBE THERE WAS A TERRORIST THREAT CALLED IN?
That. That.
MAYBE AN ALUMNUS OF OUR SCHOOL BECAME A PRIME MINISTER AND IS VISITING THE CAMPUS?
DIDN'T ONE JUST STEP DOWN A LITTLE WHILE AGO?
So long.
BUT THEY'RE BEING WAY TOO SECURE.
FWUP FWUP FWUP FWUP FWUP FWUP


BIG BROTHER SHIGETOKI!
OH!
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?
MISS GOKU-RAKU?!
I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
YOU'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH.
I didn't think you'd be here, Miss Gokuraku.
SHH... I'M ON DUTY. I CAN'T SAY.
SHEESH. SO STINGY!

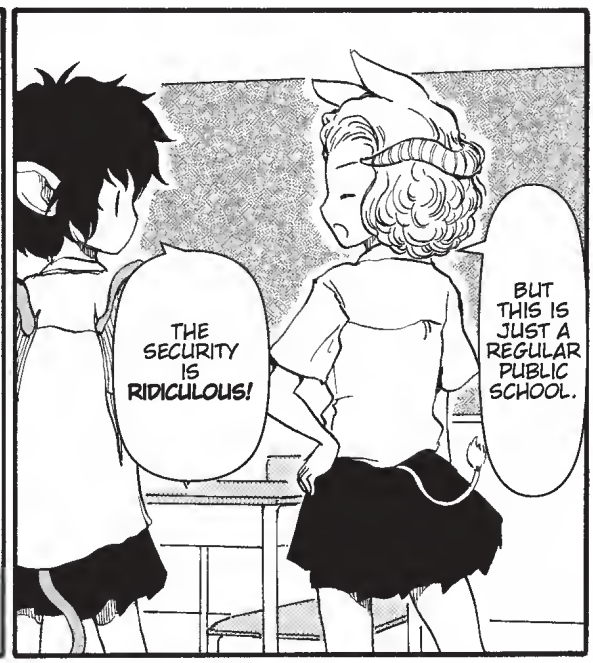
CHATTER
CHATTER
DID YOU SEE THE PEOPLE OUTSIDE?
I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON.
WE DID! IT'S CRAZY!
So big...
IS HE A STUDENT AT YOUR DOJO?
YEAH. HE'S SUPER STRONG.
A NEW DESK.
HMM?
I WONDER IF THERE'S GOING TO BE A TRANSFER STUDENT...


MAYBE THIS EXPLAINS ALL OF THAT SECURITY.
COULD IT BE... THE IMPERIAL FAMILY...? NO WAY.
It's just a normal desk.



IT'S DEFINITELY SOME VIP'S KID.

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT? LET ME IN.


THE SECURITY IS RIDICULOUS!
BUT THIS IS JUST A REGULAR PUBLIC SCHOOL.

CHATTER
WHAT ?!
THE TRANSFER STUDENT MIGHT BE AN ANTARCTIC SNAKE PERSON.
N-NO... N-NOT THAT.

NO, NO. THEY MIGHT WANT TO GO SOME-WHERE MORE NORMAL.
I'M SURE THEY'D GO TO A BETTER SCHOOL, CLOSER TO THE CAPITAL.
NO WAY... THEY WOULDN'T COME HERE.
I DON'T LIKE SNAKE PEOPLE.
WHY?
NO--! NO WAY!
I can ask the student about the UFO, too.
TRUE. THEN I VOTE SNAKE PERSON. SOUNDS INTER-ESTING!
I'M NOT GOOD WITH THEM!
I LIKE THEM A LOT.
The ones in the zoo.
WELL, NOT MANY CAN SAY THEY LIKE THEM.

You've never met one.
WHY IS THAT?
YOU BETTER NOT SAY THAT IN PUBLIC... YOU'LL GET INTO TROUBLE.
I'M REALLY, REALLY SCARED OF SNAKE PEOPLE.
THE FEAR ON ANTARC
DO YOU KNOW THE OLD MOVIE CALLED THE FEAR ON ANTARCTICA?
WHICH? THE ORIGINAL? OR THE REMAKE?
THE ONE IN COLOR!

THE IT SPITS OUT HER SKIN AND WEARS IT AS A DISGUISE.
THE ONE WHERE THE SNAKE PERSON SWALLOWS THE HEROINE WHOLE, RIGHT?
Skin
Inside
=
+
THERE'S NO WAY IT WOULD WORK.
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S AN IMPOSSIBLE SCENARIO.
I liked it a lot.
THEY SHOW IT ON TV DURING THE DAY SOME-TIMES.
Blah blah blah
I DON'T CARE HOW WELL THE MOVIE WAS MADE!
THE PART WHERE IT VOMITS THE BONES STILL LOOKS REALLY COOL.
YEAH, EVEN IF IT LOOKS REAL-ISTIC, IT'S NOT.
IT WAS FINE WHEN IT WAS WRITTEN, BUT THE INCONSIS-TENCIES REALLY SHOW IN THE MOVIE NOW.

EVEN SO...
I'VE BEEN TERRIFIED OF THEM EVER SINCE I SAW THAT MOVIE AS A CHILD.
Ah ha ha!
Waaah!
And all my dad did was laugh.
IT'S NOT LIKE A SNAKE PERSON IS LIKELY TO TRANSFER IN.
YEAH.
THAT CHANCE IS RIDICULOUSLY SLIM.
OF COURSE!
I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: WE'RE JUST A NORMAL SCHOOL.
BEENG
BING
BOONG
BONG
THERE'S NO REASON FOR AN ANTARCTIC SNAKE PERSON TO ATTEND OUR SCHOOL!
YOU'RE RIGHT--

THIS IS QUETZALCOATL SASSASSUL FROM ANTARCTICA.

I'VE COME FROM ANTARCTICA TO STUDY WITH ALL OF YOU.
THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME.
I'M SURE YOU HAVE ENDLESS QUESTIONS, BUT PLEASE SAVE THEM FOR LATER.
QUETZALCOATL-SAN, PLEASE SIT AT THE OPEN DESK IN THE VERY BACK.
KIMIHARA-SAN, PLEASE HELP YOUR NEW NEIGHBOR FEEL WELCOME.

A CentaUr's Life

AFTERWORD...

HMM... I WASN'T IN THIS VOLUME VERY MUCH.
I made an appearance during softball.
WELL, THAT'S BE-CAUSE... UM...
BECAUSE THIS VOLUME HAD A LOT OF STORIES ABOUT THE LITTLE CHILDREN.

YOU MEAN LIKE *WHISPER*, OR MAYBE *WHISPER*?
UM, WELL... SOMETIMES YOU DO THINGS THAT WE CAN'T SHOW THE READERS.
WHY WOULD THAT MATTER?
SO YOU DON'T DO STUFF LIKE THAT WITH?
Oho, you understood! So pervy, Hime-chan!
JUMP
← Modeling Agent
THEN YOU SHOULD LOOK FORWARD TO IT ALL, READERS.
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
If we did that stuff, we'd become even more niche and no magazine would take us!
Nah... I'm sure we'd be fine.

LEARN ABOUT OUR TOWN! KANATA CITY'S PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.

THE FALL OF THE CENTRALIZED GOVERNMENT & THE RISE OF LOCAL RULE

As the country entered the Heian period, the Ritsuryo system began to fall apart. The capital still appointed provincial governors to the areas currently known as prefectures, but the true forces behind the local government were the wealthy land owners and aristocrats. These people still had to pay a certain amount of their revenues in taxes to the central government, but anything beyond that was their own to manage. The local aristocrats collected power and wealth and used it to fight for more land.

There also were people who came from the capital to settle down and become aristocrats. Many members of the Imperial family, such as the Kata-shi and En-shi families, gave up their status to become aristocrats in the outlying prefectures. They came to the countryside to become provincial governors, military judges, and managers of the factories and land belonging to the Imperial court. They often stayed behind after their terms were complete and became local ruling families.

KATA NO MASAKADO [方将門] REVOLUTION (A.K.A. THE SHOHEI TENKEI [承平天慶] REVOLUTION)

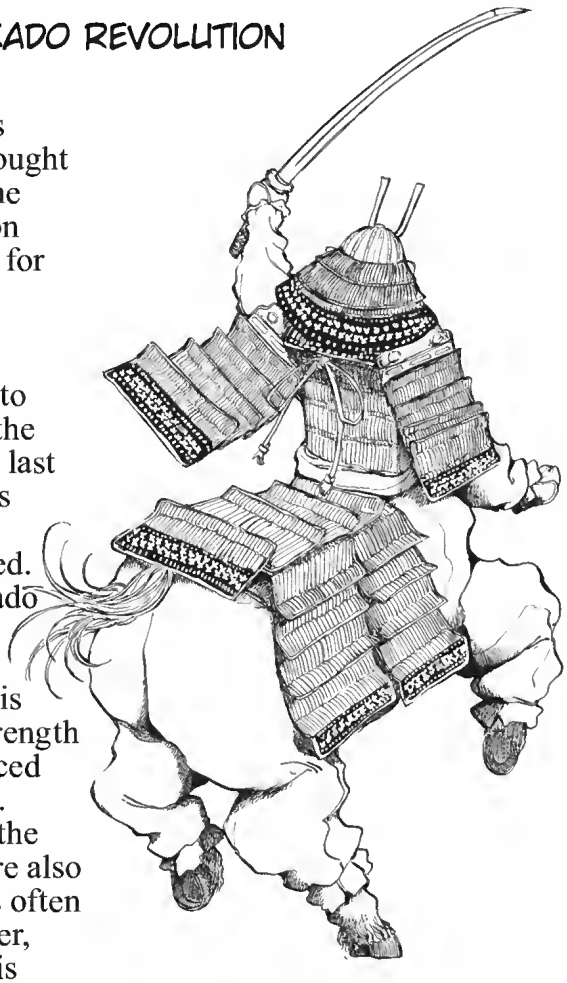
Kata no Masakado [方将門] was born in the current Touso Prefecture and was an aristocrat of the Kanto area. Although linked to the Imperial family, he belonged to the lower social class. When he reached the age of 15, he became only the lowly knight of Fuji-shi.

At that point in history, there was conflict within the Kata-shi family*. Many members of the family were affiliated with the government. Their struggles for power had an effect on all factions within the government, including those in the land of Kanata. Kata no Masakado was no exception—history shows that he returned to Kanto at this time and finally began the revolution against the Imperial court.

*There are many bloodlines of the Kata-shi family. The aristocratic Kata-shi bloodline continues to this day.

LEARN ABOUT OUR TOWN! KANATA CITY'S PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.

AFTERMATH OF THE KATA NO MASAKADO REVOLUTION

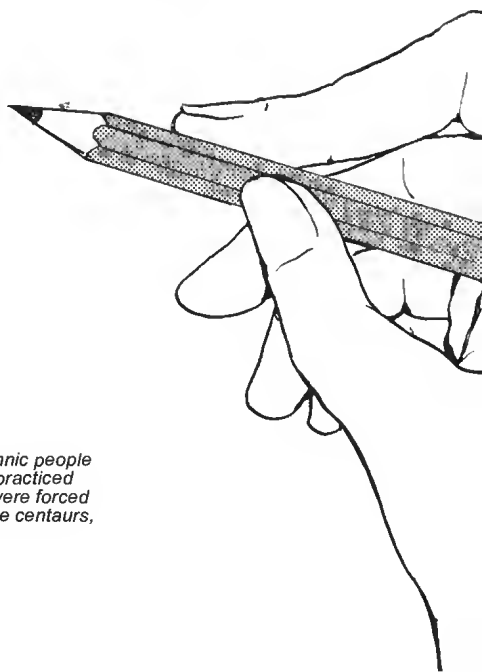


Kata no Masakado has been depicted in various ways depending on the historian. A hero who fought oppression. A treacherous rebel. A pioneer of the new era. But in reality, he just happened to be on the winning side against the Kokuga in the war for power.

As an enemy of the imperial court, Masakado defeated the various Kokuga leaders in the Kanto region and claimed their land, naming himself the new emperor. However, his government did not last long. Once he had dispersed the various soldiers gathered for his campaign, the Eastern military police leader, Fuji no Hidesato [藤秀郷] attacked. Unable to re-muster his original forces, Masakado was defeated and killed.

Masakado's reach was not solely attributed to his leadership skills. Scholars agree much of his strength came from the Northern races who were displaced when their lands were conquered by the empire. Many of these people were ranchers, skilled in the trade of breeding and training horses. They were also master riders*. This is probably the reason he is often remembered as a hero of the oppressed. However, his rule was no more enlightened than that of his predecessor, and in truth, his cabinet was yet another collection of aristocrats.

During this era, families who were masters of the art of war were just beginning to develop. The majority of Masakado's forces were merely a collection of untrained farmers. As the war dragged on, the farmers began to return to their livelihoods, ultimately hastening his defeat. However, the Kata no Masakado Revolution was a key historical event, allowing aristocrats to rule themselves instead of relying upon the empire. This was the beginning of the age of warriors.



**In Furukanata of Kanata City, you can find the Mitama shrine, which pays respect to the Northern ethnic people that died for Kata no Masakado. Before the war, the tradition of yabusame, or mounted archery, was practiced by winged people there. However, during the war, the horses were commandeered and the ranches were forced to close. With no horses to ride, the tradition died out. Lately, the tradition has been revived among the centaurs, but there are no signs of the revival of the winged people's tradition of yabusame.*

A CentaUr's Life

For Hime and her classmates, racial mixing is nothing new. Wings both feathery and leathery, tails pointed or furry, horns like goats' or like unicorns'—you'll find them all in this classroom. When the prospect of a new transfer student arises, is there anything left that would shock them? A UFO sighting, perhaps?!
OLDER TEEN (16+)
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